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UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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6

PUBLIC MEETING

with Dr. David Michaels

7

Assistant Secretary of Environmental Health and Safety

8

9

Held at the

U.S. Department of Energy

10

Nevada Support Facility

232 Energy Way

11 North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

12

13 on

February 25, 2000

14 beginning at

9:00 a.m.

15

16

MODERATOR: PHILIP CLAIRE

17

18 PANEL MEMBERS: DR. DAVID MICHAELS

CONGRESSWOMAN SHELLEY BERKLEY

19

20 ALSO PRESENT: KAI ANDERSON

representing Senator Harry Reid

21

SARA BESSER

22 representing Senator Richard Bryan

23 JEANNE RICE

representing Congressman Jim Gibbons

24

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1 Key to Transcript Symbols and/or Abbreviations

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5 Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary: "Verbatim -- in the
 exact words; word for word."

6

7

 Dash {--}: Indicates a sentence not completed by speaker.

8

9 Ellipsis { . . .}: Indicates something was said by the
 speaker, which, as spoken, is neither audible nor
10 decipherable to the reporter or from the taped cassette
 recording.

11

12

(ph): Indicates phonetic.

13

14

(sic): Represents exactly as said by the speaker and is
used to alert the speaker/reader to an error in the record.

16

17 Parentheses (): Words within parentheses are reporter's
explanatory comments.

18

19

A VOICE: Indicates an unknown speaker.

20

21

Uh-huh: Indicates an affirmative answer.

22

23

Huh-uh: Indicates negative answer.

24

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1 NORTH LAS VEGAS, FEBRUARY 25, 2000, 9:00 A.M.

2 MR. CLAIRE: I'd like to thank everyone for coming

3 here today. This is a very important day. My name is Phil

4 Claire. I'm a local real estate broker here in town. My

5 wife, Glenda, and I own a real estate company here and

6 we -- I'm also an acting chair for the community advisory

7 board for the DOE Nevada Test Site. That's a board of

8 citizens that DOE has set up to interact with DOE and make

9 suggestions and comments on things that they do. And with
10 that I'm going to be your moderator today.

11 I'd like to make some -- introduce some people
12 here. I'd like to introduce Kathy Carlson who is our
13 manager and U.S. Department of Energy's Operations Office.
14 Kathy.

15 MS. CARLSON: Thank you. Welcome to DOE Nevada.
16 I'm Kathy Carlson. I am the field manager here at Nevada,
17 and it's so wonderful to see such a turnout. As you know,
18 Dr. Michaels is here to listen to you about what the health
19 effects are that you are suffering as a result of your work
20 here at Nevada Test Site. And we will be here all day to
21 listen to your concerns, and Dr. Michaels will also talk
22 about the worker compensation initiative. So thank you for

23 coming, and it's wonderful turnout. And we're here to

24 listen to you today.

25 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Kathy. Appreciate that.

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1 I believe Congresswoman Shelley Berkley is held up in

2 traffic if anyone knows what the Las Vegas traffic is like.

3 So what I'd like to do at this time -- we have a couple

4 assistants from Senator Harry Reid's office, Kai Anderson

5 from the Washington office, I believe, and Hugh Ferree from

6 the Nevada office. And I'm going to turn this over to Kai
7 for a minute.

8 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you, Phil. Senator asked
9 that I read a statement into the record and regrets that he
10 was unable to be here today.

11 "As a boy growing up in Searchlight, Nevada, I
12 felt and saw nuclear tests which occurred more than 100
13 miles to the north. I was lucky, though, because the
14 tremendous clouds of radioactive pollution from these
15 blasts usually drifted eastward in the wind, too far away
16 to harm me or my family.

17 "We learned too late that the people who lived
18 downwind of the Test Site in Lincoln County, Nevada, and
19 southern Utah did not share our good luck. These

20 downwinders suffered devastating health effects. Congress
21 eventually recognized this problem and passed legislation
22 to help affected downwind families. It is time to make
23 similar reparations to injured Nevada Test Site workers.
24 "The federal government must fulfill its moral
25 obligation to the patriotic Americans who worked with or

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1 were otherwise exposed to the radioactive or toxic
2 materials used in the U.S. nuclear programs. These

3 courageous and dedicated people sacrificed their health,
4 and, in some cases, their lives, often unknowingly, in an
5 effort to help the U.S. win the Cold War against the Soviet
6 Union.

7 "Well, we won the Cold War and it is past time to
8 lift the veil of secrecy that surrounded many of our
9 nuclear activities so that we can care for and compensate
10 those workers who were poisoned working with toxic and
11 nuclear materials.

12 "I'd like to commend President Clinton, Vice
13 President Gore, Secretary Richardson, and you, Assistant
14 Secretary Michaels, for confronting this issue. The
15 problems we have here that we are here to document today
16 are problems that have festered for decades and I applaud

17 the administration for committing to investigate and

18 redress these problems.

19 "The legislation we will be discussing today

20 that's currently pending in the U.S. Congress does not

21 address the health problems of many of the Americans who

22 worked at the Nevada Test Site. The comments and personal

23 accounts that people in the audience today share will pave

24 the way to fix this problem.

25 "We all know that it makes no difference whether a

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1 person is in Paducah, Kentucky; Hanford, Washington; or at
2 the Nevada Test Site. Uranium is uranium, plutonium is
3 plutonium, beryllium is beryllium, and they're all deadly.
4 The testimony of people in the audience today will help
5 ensure that whatever action Congress takes to address this
6 problem, it will not discriminate based on geography but
7 recognize that everyone harmed by America's nuclear history
8 deserves help.

9 "I welcome the opportunity to work with Nevadans,
10 the Department of Energy, and my colleagues in Washington
11 to improve and move legislation designed to help right the
12 grievous wrongs suffered by many courageous and dedicated
13 Americans. Together we can clean some of the radioactive

14 skeletons out of America's secretive nuclear closet.

15 "The federal government has a responsibility to
16 help affected workers. This administration is preparing to
17 take unprecedented corrective action, and each of you in
18 the audience can contribute to this effort by sharing your
19 knowledge and insight into problems at the Nevada Test
20 Site. I appreciate everyone's participation in this
21 important forum.

22 "And again, thank you, Assistant Secretary
23 Michaels.

24 "Sincerely, Harry Reid."

25 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Kai. I appreciate that.

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1 Okay, next I would like to call for a -- it's southern
2 Nevada's director, Sara Besser, from U.S. Senator Richard
3 Bryan's office. Sara, if you would like to come forward
4 for a moment.

5 MS. BESSER: Thank you very much. Before I read
6 Senator Bryan's statement, we would like to commend DOE for
7 holding this long overdue hearing. We appreciate it and
8 we'd like to welcome you, Assistant Secretary Michaels, to
9 Southern Nevada. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

10 Senator -- the Senate is in session. Senator

11 Bryan was not able to be with us this morning and I would
12 like to enter his statement into the record.

13 "Over the past 50 years, the Nevada Test Site has
14 played a major role in the defense of our country.

15 "The first contingent of construction workers
16 arrived at the Test Site in 1950 which was followed by the
17 first aboveground nuclear blast on January 27th, 1951. The
18 Atomic Energy Commission maintained a program of
19 atmospheric testing in Nevada for over a decade at a time
20 when radiation contamination was not well understood. The
21 limited test ban treaty signed with the then-Soviet Union
22 marked a change in a point of recognition in that
23 atmospheric nuclear testing was harmful to human health and
24 to the environment.

25 "Following the implementation of the test ban, all

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1 nuclear testing at the Test Site took place underground for
2 a period of 30 years until 1992. The Nevada Test Site
3 proved to be an economically beneficial part of Southern
4 Nevada's past. Behind the gaming industry, the Test Site
5 became the largest single employer in the state in the late
6 '50s and '60s.

7 "Through the 50 years of operation, thousands of

8 workers have been actively involved in work dealing with
9 nuclear weapon testing and development. The Nevada Test
10 Site employees were among many of the Cold War warriors who
11 contributed to the testing that maintained the United
12 States as a superpower in the world. The patriotic work
13 that was conducted at the Test Site resulted in various
14 forms of exposure and illness as a byproduct of developing
15 a system of nuclear weapon defense.

16 "The effects of atmospheric testing were
17 undoubtedly understood by the Atomic Energy Commission
18 which is evident in the moratorium on atmospheric testing.
19 But the harmful effects remained in a shroud of secrecy as
20 workers were continually subjected to a potentially deadly
21 working environment.

22 "I would like to commend Secretary Richardson for

23 having the courage to break the shameless code of silence
24 that has been a trademark of the Department of Energy in
25 years past regarding the health effects suffered as a

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1 result of our nuclear production and testing programs.

2 "In November of 1999 the DOE publicly recognized
3 the deadly effects of beryllium disease in two ways: first,
4 by lowering the exposure standard to a level that is ten

5 times lower than the previous level; and secondly, by
6 establishing a compensation program for current and former
7 DOE employees at the Oakridge, Tennessee, and Paducah,
8 Kentucky sites, which are the primary production sites for
9 beryllium.

10 "This disclosure and acknowledgment was a step in
11 the right direction. But there is still a mile to go.
12 Through the leadership of the Secretary, the administration
13 has advanced a bill both in the House of Representatives
14 and in the Senate to compensate DOE employees, family
15 members, or direct decedents in the case of the deceased
16 who have suffered as a result of beryllium exposure.

17 "As it's currently written, this legislation would
18 exclude the thousands of Test Site employees. To advance
19 any piece of legislation without the inclusion of all

20 parties who have been unduly and unknowingly harmed is
21 unconscionable. Many Nevada Test Site employees suffer
22 from hazardous material exposure, silicosis, and cancer.
23 These patriots deserve the same recognition and
24 compensation that has been put forth for their counterparts
25 in Kentucky and Tennessee. We must remember that every

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1 person who was unknowing harmed in the production of

2 nuclear weapons is a casualty of the Cold War and is

3 entitled to compensation.

4 "Thank you very much."

5 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Sara. I appreciate that.

6 Now at this time we have a representative here for

7 Jim Gibbons' office, our Nevada Congressperson, and it's

8 Jeanne Rice. Jeanne, would you like to come forward.

9 MS. RICE: I would like to read for the record a
10 statement from Congressman Gibbons.

11 "Ladies and gentlemen, in 1991 America won the
12 longest war in which we have ever been engaged, the Cold
13 War. When historians of the future reflect on this great
14 victory they will be sure to note that of all the important
15 campaigns of that decades-long struggle, one of the
16 greatest was waged here in the heartland of America at the

17 Nevada Test Site, and hopefully these same historians will
18 note with gratitude the compassion and good will we show to
19 the true citizen-soldiers of this war, our Nevada Test Site
20 employees.

21 "Just as America cannot in good conscience turn
22 away from the veterans of the nation's armed services, we
23 cannot give short shift to the needs of our atomic
24 veterans, be they in uniform, from governmental agencies,
25 or contract workers toiling in and for the arsenal of

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1 freedom.

2 "I would like to join my friends, colleagues, and
3 neighbors in thanking those whose diligent labors through
4 the long years won the Cold War. I also join them in
5 calling for equitable care and compensation for those who
6 sacrificed and were wounded during that same conflict here
7 in the Nevada desert. History and our humanity demand no
8 less.

9 "Thank you."

10 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Jeanne.

11 Okay, at this time I would like, for everyone
12 here, I'd like to introduce Assistant Secretary of Energy
13 for the Environmental Safety and Health, Dr. David

14 Michaels.

15 Dr. Michaels.

16 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you very much. Thank you,

17 Kathy Carlson, for hosting us. We're very grateful. Thank
18 you, all of you, for coming.

19 I'd like to thank the representatives of senators

20 and Congressman Gibbons. And let me thank in advance

21 Congresswoman Berkley, who's on her way. On behalf of

22 Secretary Richardson, we are first grateful for all your

23 work. There are people here in this room who are heroes.

24 The people in this room helped us win the Cold War.

25 Without the work at the Nevada Test Site, without the

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1 secret work, without the underground explosions, the
2 atmospheric explosions, the tremendous amount of effort you
3 put into making sure our nuclear capability was at the top
4 of its potential power, we wouldn't have won the Cold War.

5 We have to thank you but also we have to recognize
6 that we've made you sick. We have to come to grips with
7 that and we have to help you. The Department of Energy in
8 the past has not had any history of doing this. As you
9 know, we work in the atmosphere of great secrecy. The
10 mission of the Department of Energy and our predecessors,

11 the Atomic Energy Commission and the Manhattan Project, was
12 to produce nuclear weapons quickly, efficiently, and we
13 really didn't let anything get in the way.

14 One of the things we didn't let get in the way was
15 environmental health and worker health. We're now paying
16 for that. We spent \$6 billion a year cleaning up the
17 environment, cleaning up the ground around our facilities,
18 around our Test Site. Now it's time to recognize that we
19 may have made workers sick as well. We have to pay for
20 that.

21 Secretary Richardson has been relentless about
22 this. He's gone to the President. There really is
23 tremendous support for this effort. In November, actually
24 in last July, the administration announced that we'd be

25 sending to Congress a proposal to compensate workers who

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1 were exposed to beryllium, a disease that's a very
2 well-known condition. We understand it well. We caused
3 the disease, we have to take some responsibility for it.

4 At the same time, the President said to the
5 National Economic Counsel and to all the agencies including
6 the DOE: Examine the health of workers across the complex.
7 The question that he asked us was: Are there workers

8 across the Department of Energy complex who've been made
9 sick because of exposure to either radiation or toxic
10 chemicals? And if that's the case, have these workers been
11 adequately compensated?

12 And the final thing he asked, he said if we have
13 found in fact that people have been made sick and not been
14 adequately compensated, what should we do?

15 As a result of that, my office has been working
16 very hard, looking at all the scientific studies that we've
17 done. Probably there's no better-studied group of workers
18 in United States than the workers who work in the DOE
19 complex. We have all the epidemiology medical surveillance
20 programs. And as you know we have medical surveillance
21 programs here at Nevada Test Site where we offer free

22 medical exams for former workers, and we found workers who
23 have asbestosis and silicosis and other diseases related to
24 their work. And we've documented that and we're putting
25 all that together into a series of reports that will go to

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1 the President in March to move this forward.

2 But hearing from you is also very important. You
3 know, I teach epidemiology and I, up until taking this
4 position a year ago, I taught at several medical schools in

5 New York City. I tell my students on the first day of
6 class, statistics are just people with tears washed off.
7 And all the studies in the world and all the statistics,
8 the proportions of people sick, and what number of people
9 are sick means less than any one of your stories.

10 It's very important that we hear from you, hear
11 what happened to you, what sort of work you did, the
12 exposures you were exposed to, the risks you took and what
13 happened to you. That has to get to the President as well,
14 and that's why we're here. And I look forward to your
15 stories and I hope that we can help you.

16 We have a situation in many cases where people are
17 unwilling to talk publicly either, you know, for fear of
18 retribution or just they're not comfortable publicly. We

19 have a number of my staff here around in the room and in

20 the back. If you'd like to talk to us confidentially and

21 privately we'd like to encourage you to do that.

22 We also have an 800 number, I won't give it to you

23 now. You don't have to write it down, it's on the flyer in

24 the back. Please fill that out. And please take that and

25 call us if you don't want to talk to us here.

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1 We also have a questionnaire in the back that

2 we're trying to gather more information about your
3 experience with the workers compensation system. Again if
4 you can't speak publicly or don't want to, fill that out
5 and mail it to us. We are interested in hearing from you.

6 Really, this is your meeting. Let me turn it over
7 to you. And we'll go through the ground rules and start
8 listening to your testimonies. Thank you all again for
9 coming.

10 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Dr. Michaels.

11 Can everyone hear me better on this? This might
12 be a little bit better than the other one. As Dr. Michaels
13 said, it's our goal today to try to make this meeting go as
14 smooth as we can. There's an awful lot of people that's
15 come here. Some of you are really sick at this point and

16 there's -- okay -- oh, excuse me. It is on, yes.

17 At this time I would like to announce Congressman

18 Shelley Berkley is among us and I would like to introduce

19 her to you. And I will turn this over to Congressman

20 Berkley.

21 CONGRESSWOMAN BERKLEY: Oh, thanks. Good morning,

22 everybody. I want to thank you for the opportunity to

23 express my views here this morning. I am here to speak in

24 favor of justice and fairplay for Nevada Test Site workers

25 who have suffered due to the radiation exposure and other

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1 toxic exposure related to their jobs. We as a nation owe a
2 debt to those who have personally suffered, who have lost
3 loved ones due to the changes that workers faced at the
4 Nevada Test Site. These people must be compensated for
5 their tremendous losses.

6 From 1951 to 1992 the federal government tested
7 nuclear weapons both above and below ground here in Nevada.
8 The people who worked at the Test Site were never made
9 aware of the potential danger that exposure to radiation
10 and toxic chemicals might pose to their health. But we now
11 know the hazards that were faced, and we now have a
12 responsibility to do the right thing. We cannot shirk this

13 responsibility nor can we delay living up to it any longer.

14 The United States Congress is currently
15 considering legislation that would compensate Department of
16 Energy workers who contracted a beryllium-related illness
17 due to the nature of their jobs at the Department of Energy
18 facilities at Paducah, Kentucky.

19 President Clinton is proposing legislation to
20 compensate workers at both the Paducah DOE facility and the
21 facility at Oakridge, Tennessee. Neither of these
22 proposals includes compensation for former Nevada Test Site
23 workers. The people who worked at the Nevada Test Site
24 during the years of atomic weapons testing deserve
25 compensation for illnesses related to their work. They

1 worked hard to serve their country and took great risks in
2 defense of America. They worked in the isolation and
3 obscurity of a remote desert shrouded in official secrecy
4 on land here in Nevada. Maybe because they worked here in
5 a small state with a big desert they've been forgotten or
6 somehow demoted to second-class citizenship. This is
7 wrong.

8 As one former Test Site worker, Mr. Fred Love,
9 said, not extending benefits to Nevada Test Site workers

10 would be like living in Mississippi and not qualifying for
11 Social Security. Fred Love, who worked at the Test Site as
12 a helicopter pilot in 1985 and '86, didn't know that
13 working for the Department of Energy would cost him his
14 career.

15 You see, Mr. Love's duty included flying through a
16 radioactive cloud when a nuclear blast went awry. In March
17 of 1997, doctors removed his right eye due to a tumor
18 caused by a rare form of cancer that is associated with
19 radiation exposure. Even before the loss of his eye he was
20 having problems with his vision and lost his pilot's
21 license, his very livelihood. Had he spent those years
22 working at a plant in Paducah, Kentucky, he would be
23 covered under the proposed legislation, but because he

24 served his country in Nevada, he won't get any compensation

25 under the current proposals. He did his job and was a

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1 skilled and dedicated professional. The United States

2 government should compensate Mr. Fred Love.

3 In 1997 Yvonne Flowers lost her father and Clara

4 Brooks, her husband, to cancer. John Brooks was his name.

5 He worked at the Nevada Test Site for over 20 years, first

6 as a laborer then as a foreman of a construction crew. He

7 began his job in the early 1960s. Not long after, John
8 Brooks started getting sick. At first it was colon cancer,
9 then the cancer spread through his lungs, and finally
10 throughout his entire body. The doctors said that the
11 cancer was caused by exposure to radiation and toxic
12 chemicals. John Brooks literally sacrificed his life in
13 the cause of defense of our nation.

14 He and a legion of dedicated Americans like him
15 who worked at the Nevada Test Site did not flinch from
16 these heavy demands and the obvious dangers of their work,
17 and they toiled without thanks or recognition from this
18 nation or from their fellow Americans. But now we can
19 properly recognize them by providing the compensation that
20 justice demands we provide. It is our moral obligation.

21 Boston University School of Public Health is
22 conducting medical screening programs for former Nevada
23 Test Site workers. The program is targeting persons who
24 worked at the Test Site during the nuclear testing era of
25 1951 to 1992 and is locating and identifying these former

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1 workers with potential exposure risks and offering them
2 medical screening where available. Here in Las Vegas,
3 former Test Site workers can get information about these

4 screenings by calling -- and I'll repeat this number a few
5 times if anybody is interested -- 1-888-636-8161. That's
6 1-888-636-8161. I strongly encourage all of those who
7 worked at the Test Site during the weapons testing period
8 to call and get screened as soon as possible.

9 I also want to state my strong support for
10 legislation that includes compensation for former Test Site
11 workers who suffered work-related illnesses or lost wages
12 due to radiation exposure or other toxic exposure. Nevada
13 Test Site workers deserve compensation just as much as
14 those who labored in Paducah or Oak Ridge, and I am
15 personally, personally appalled that we have been left out
16 of this legislation. I am sharing my very strong and
17 passionate views that I have shared with you with the

18 President of the United States, and the Energy Secretary
19 Bill Richardson, and I want to thank all of you not only
20 for listening to me but for having the guts to show up and
21 express your views. Thank you very much and thank you all
22 for coming here to Nevada to listen.

23 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Congresswoman Berkley. We
24 appreciate that. As I started to say, we've got -- our
25 goals here is to let everyone speak that wants to speak or

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1 have a say. However, we've got about 30 -- over 30 or 40
2 cards that are here. For you to speak, everyone that wants
3 to speak needs to fill out a card like this to get on the
4 record up here in front.

5 We're going to follow some rules here for this
6 meeting to help it go along a little smoother and to give
7 everyone a fair chance to say what they can. I was handed
8 a timer here. It's kind of like a bell timer in the
9 kitchen and what it does, I guess, is limits everyone to
10 like five minutes to get in what you can say so everyone
11 can speak.

12 And if you have additional stuff, they've told me
13 that we can fill out other forms and records and hand it
14 in. Also if you have medical records that you would want

15 to submit or turn in for some reason here, you could do
16 that as long as you turn in copies. We don't want your
17 originals turned in, you know, so that you'll have your
18 originals.

19 We have people that are here today that are very
20 ill that we're going to try to get in sooner and we have
21 people that have traveled a long distance to get here
22 today, I've heard as far as Alaska, so we're going to try
23 to get people in, you know, in a timelier manner if we can.

24 What I would also let you know, we do have a court
25 reporter here today. They will be taking this as a matter

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1 of record, written record. We are going to try to take a
2 break in about an hour and a half, something like that, for
3 a little bit and then maybe a shorter period after that if
4 we can get through this first step.

5 Also if there's someone here that would like to
6 have a matter of record of their, what they want to say,
7 there's a toll free number that you can also call and
8 you'll -- Dr. Michaels talked about it a minute ago, I have
9 it written down so I will give it to you if you'd like to
10 write it down. And I'll repeat it and if you do miss it
11 you can also pick this up at the table, I believe, in the

12 back. It is a 1-877-447-9756. To repeat that it's a 1-877
13 number and it's 447-9756. This number is available for
14 your calls on weekdays until 6:00 p.m. Eastern time. So
15 you kind of watch the time on that a little bit.

16 We also have confidential questionnaires that you
17 can fill out in the lobby. That's part of if you don't
18 want to come forward and speak, you don't have to but you
19 will be heard. I believe what I'll do here is we've got a
20 long list so I'm going to call a name to come forward to
21 the table and I will call a second name to be on deck to
22 stand by, so when the first person is done, the second
23 person can come forward. I don't believe I've missed any
24 of the rules and that should help us kind of get by here.

25 So what I'm going to do at this time is call our

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1 first person who is Wayne Cates. And then the DeBaby
2 family is up next. So at that I would like to turn this
3 over and hand the mike over to Wayne Cates to come forward.

4 MR. CATES: Good morning. Thank you for the
5 opportunity to speak. I'm a former ironworker, 18 years at
6 the Test Site. Excuse me if I run out of breath. I
7 contracted silicosis. I've been on a waiting list for a
8 lung for 18 months.

9 I would like to say when I went into the military,
10 I was very proud to join the military and defend my country
11 and I was proud to work at the Nevada Test Site in
12 defending my country at that time. It's the best job that
13 I ever had in my life and I was very thankful to work
14 there.

15 I've never smoked in my life. I've always worked
16 out and maintained excellent health. It was sort of my
17 hobby, working out, and it's very embarrassing to me now
18 that I'm so physically incapacitated. I had to seek some
19 mental counseling for that after I was forced to retire at
20 55, which I definitely wasn't ready to retire at that time.

21 Excuse me for spacing out. Your memory's the
22 first thing that goes, I forget what the second is. The

23 doctors have told me that after my lung transplant that I
24 have a 60 percent chance of living five more years. I just
25 had my first grandson and I certainly hope that I can live

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1 longer than five years. I'm going to give it my best shot.

2 I guess that's about all I have to say. Thank you very

3 much.

4 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. The DeBaby

5 family, I believe I've got that pronounced right. And

6 Robert Kromrei on deck next.

7 MR. DEBABY: Good morning. I worked at the Test
8 Site in the years in the early '60s and the '70s. I worked
9 out of IBEW Local 357. I was an electrician.

10 I went and took the examination from you people
11 and on my chest it shows scarring of the lungs. Now I got
12 a letter from doctors saying that I have lung disease. I
13 also have a CAT scan that it said to take. It says
14 infection, fairly extensive damage most likely related to
15 asbestos. I got a private doctor from the chest, Dr.
16 Stroop here in Las Vegas, says I have lung disease.

17 I took a hearing test here that tells me moderate
18 to severe loss of hearing in the high frequency range in
19 both ears as well as moderate frequency loss in the right

20 ear. I was told that I have to see, the doctors I go and
21 see, I have to go see one of those doctors that belong to
22 what you have to go to claim whatever, they have to belong
23 to that. So I'm holding off on the hearing test. And my
24 doctors don't give me much time to live.

25 Thank you.

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1 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you. Next is Robert, I
2 believe it's Kromrei, and after that would be Kelly

3 Blazeovich.

4 MR. KROMREI: My name is Robert Kromrei and I
5 worked at the Nevada Test Site from '61 to '76 in various
6 departments, cranes, reentry, core drilling. And I was
7 exposed to quite a bit of radiation because I handled the
8 cores myself with my own hands. And I've been told at
9 times that I received the maximum dose of radiation, was
10 told to leave the immediate area, called back in four
11 hours, and received the maximum dose of radiation and sent
12 out again. These were back in the old days in '60, the
13 early '60s. They had no containment whatsoever. We had
14 blowouts that blew for days from steam and radiation coming
15 out of the holes. And anyway why when they shot the Sedan
16 shot I lost all my clothes and shoes and almost my car

17 because we were allowed to enter a contaminated area and

18 spent about 24 hours out there being deconned.

19 And I worked in almost all areas at the Test Site

20 in recovery or drilling either way and as a result of this

21 radiation I have severe lung damage, a lot of scar tissue

22 and I've had pneumonia about nine times in the last eight

23 years. Also I have about, I don't know, somewhere between

24 15 and 25 cancers removed on my skin and I'm scheduled

25 again for more cancer removal. And that's about all I can

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1 say other than it's put me down where I'm at now.

2 I thank you very much for your time.

3 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, sir. Kelly is up and then

4 Clifford Clayton.

5 MS. BLAZEIVICH: Hi, my name's Kelly Blazeovich.

6 I'm not like you guys. I'm -- my father worked at the

7 Nevada Test Site.

8 My birthday is 6/23/58. I'm always sick. I've

9 got an abundance of health problems. When I was born I was

10 born not breathing. They had to take care of me from birth

11 up till now. Like the gentleman said, bronchitis happens

12 to be like my sidekick, all the time sick. I just heard

13 from my doctor the day before yesterday that I also have

14 Parkinson's along with asthma. I have a breathing machine
15 at home and such. I've had a few back surgeries and I've
16 had a lot of problems from this and from my -- the exposure
17 of being produced. My father worked at the Test Site and
18 radiation was in me. I have an abundance of doctors. All
19 over the world I've been, and I've got the records that I
20 need to submit to you.

21 And I do want to thank you for taking time for us
22 and these people here and people like my father and
23 yourself for finally coming out to help and deal with us
24 because, like you said, we're out for each other to just
25 get help for our own medicals. And that's all we're asking

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1 for is just for, you know, help of that and not being set
2 aside like we are all set aside and looked at like we're
3 nobody. We just want to be heard and know that it's not
4 just the people that worked there, it's the family.

5 I'm going to be 42 in June and it's taken my life
6 away from me. I've got two kids and I'm a grandmother of
7 three. And one of my kids has got breathing problems from
8 the same thing and it carried on from my dad to me to my
9 children.

10 And I just want to know -- well, I want to thank

11 you guys for letting us speak. I'm kind of nervous, I
12 didn't intend on doing this. But my father worked there,
13 and I'm a prodigy of him and I do have a lot of documents.
14 I got a few stacks of them as most everybody does.

15 And I just hope that you guys can help us out like
16 you're saying you do instead of just saying it and setting
17 us aside like a lot of people have done. I've been trying
18 to fight this for the last 30 years of my life, okay. And
19 I just want to say thank you for hearing us and I can
20 continue to talking to what you gave me the obligation to
21 do now. And I'm glad that someone's on my side and these
22 other people that are in the audience too. Okay.

23 Thank you very much for letting us speak. Thank
24 you very much.

25

MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Clifford

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1 Clayton is up next and Gilbert Marking I believe.

2 MR. CLAYTON: Good morning. Sorry. Good morning.

3 My name is Clifford Clayton and I worked for EG&G Energy

4 Measurements from 1965 through 1996. I did physical and

5 special inventories each year plus issuing -- one of my

6 commodities was beryllium. This commodity I handled with

7 my bare hands for years. In later years we used cotton

8 gloves and beings that this was part of my inventory it's
9 like I'm sure once I handled it, in counting the pieces I
10 would rub my eyes or my nose or other parts of my body.
11 And I want to know if this, or I would like to know if this
12 is or would have any effect on my present condition. In
13 1989 I had one spinal surgery in the cervical area. In
14 1996 I had two additional sections with a brace and a
15 fusion on my neck.

16 So I know there are other people that want to
17 speak and I won't take up a lot of time. But I thank you
18 for listening to me.

19 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, Mr. Clayton. I want to
20 take a minute to respond to your question. I think this
21 may be of interest to many of us.

22 Handling beryllium itself, at least theoretically,
23 should not be risky. However, what we're worried about is
24 any beryllium that's machined or in any way ground up. If
25 it's released into your lungs, a very small quantity can

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1 cause disease. We can't guarantee that you weren't exposed
2 to ground beryllium. Handling it is not something to worry
3 about. On the other hand, if you were in contact with it
4 and it was used in various processes, there is some

5 possibility you've developed beryllium disease and that
6 would be something -- we have a very good test for
7 beryllium disease.

8 Again if one would -- we offer free medical exams
9 through the Boston University and the University of
10 California San Francisco -- if anyone here would like to
11 make, to get that examination and they will look to see if
12 you have beryllium disease I would highly recommend doing
13 that. The phone number for that, Congresswoman Berkley
14 read. Let me read it to you again though if you would like
15 to come and get the free medical screening. It's
16 888-636-8161. Thank you.

17 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Dr. Michaels. We had a
18 gentleman that is going to send in his paperwork instead of

19 coming up to speak, so next would be Henry Peluaga, I
20 believe. You would be up now, if you would, and next on
21 deck would be Hugh Dupree.

22 MR. PELUAGA: Hello. I'm Hank Peluaga. I worked
23 out at the Test Site. I started there in 1957 and worked
24 until '91. I started out at the Test Site in 1957 and
25 worked till '91 -- or '91, yes. And I had a five-year

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1 break in between where I worked for Wells Cargo. But I

2 lost my hearing out there and they keep denying you. They
3 give me a paper and then you go in and they just deny you
4 and deny you and deny you. I'd just like to get something
5 out of it. And my lungs are all fouled up and the doctors,
6 every time I go to the doctor he tells me to quit smoking.
7 Hell, I haven't smoked for 20 years. That's all I got to
8 say. Thank you for listening to me.

9 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you. I'd like to just ask
10 the audience a question. How many of you people here have
11 lost hearing as a result of working at the facility?

12 Thank you.

13 MR. CLAIRE: Amazing number. Hugh Dupree is up.
14 And Bev Aleck, I believe, is on deck.

15 MR. DUPREE: Yes, my name is Hugh Dupree and I

16 began working at the Nevada Test Site in 1981 and retired
17 in '96 and the last 13 years I have been experiencing
18 different pains in my body. I started going to the doctor
19 and doctors can't make out what it was or what it is and I
20 knew it was something because of something spreading in my
21 body, it moves. I went on my own to different doctors.

22 I had a marrow done where they went into the bone
23 and took the blood to find out -- if something is going on
24 they usually can find out with blood in the bone. I had
25 that done, they couldn't find out what was going on. Later

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1 on my eyesight -- I was losing my eyesight. I had three
2 doctors to tell me I was going blind. They treated it with
3 steroids. I finally got my eyesight back and the doctor
4 told me I had uveitis.

5 Okay, right after that my spleen was attacked.
6 Right after that immune system was attacked. Right after
7 that my hearing was attacked. It just seem like it attacks
8 one thing and goes to another one, different organs in the
9 body, different organs in the body until I finally found a
10 doctor in December and he told me he's going to find out
11 what's going on in my body.

12 And I had surgery a week before Christmas and I

13 was diagnosed with sarcosis and it was found through the
14 x-rays that they had taken over at the university. And I
15 had went and did this on my own and I found out I had
16 sarcosis. And I looked at my past and it connects to the
17 uveitis of my eyes and immune system, my hearing. It
18 attacks those organs in the body, and liver, it attacks all
19 that. So far it hasn't attacked my liver.

20 And the doctor, when he came in the room, that
21 diagnosed me, he told me well, I some bad news and I got
22 some good news. He said the good news is that it's not
23 cancerous where it would kill you, but it is a cancer
24 eating form of thing. And then he told me one thing is the
25 rest of our life you're going to be seeing a lot of me.

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1 And so ever since I -- that has been diagnosed, he hasn't
2 done me anything yet because the treatment that they were
3 treating me with will cause real bad hardness in my life.
4 And right now I've been trying to get all the information
5 that I can on my own about this disease.

6 And right here in Las Vegas the doctors can't tell
7 you anything. They don't give me no information at all
8 about what's going on, and I know something's going on in
9 my body. I went to the doctor on last week, the doctor

10 said well, I can't tell if there's anything going on with
11 your body.

12 I have this form that just moves up and down, up
13 and down. Sometime I can wake up in the morning after a
14 nice sleep and feel like I just run a marathon when I got
15 up in the morning. Ten minutes later I got my strength
16 back, but yet they tell me oh, we can't find nothing going
17 on in your body.

18 Everybody in this room know what's going on in
19 their body. We don't need a doctor to say that we can't
20 find anything going on when you know yourself that
21 something is going on in your body. Now we need to stop
22 all this lollygagging or whatever it may be. Half of the
23 people in this room, the next meeting we might have, this

24 room could be half full. We need action now.

25 I know the Test Site cost my job. I was sent out

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1 on tactics. I was a construction worker at the heavy duty
2 shop in Area 12 and I moved up, the last two years I worked
3 at Mercury. I was sent out on oil spills, toxic spills,
4 different types of spills. I never did know what kind of
5 spills they were. Only thing I know, they came to the shop
6 and got me and my fellow worker, they got us and ran us out

7 to pick up this spill and that spill, not knowing what the
8 spill was. Didn't have no protection, anything.

9 Solvents, I understand that it could come from
10 solvents. I mopped the floor there in the heavy duty shop
11 with solvents for 16 years I've been at the shop.
12 Degreasers, sheet metal. We have sheet metals, working in
13 the iron shop. All this stuff can cause that, I have
14 found. But yet the doctors say, oh, we cannot diagnosis
15 that. It was connected to the Test Site.

16 And I'm just saying to the board today, let's move
17 quickly. Put this your first priority. We're tired of
18 waiting. I have a -- they say it's not a cancer eating
19 thing that I have. It just moves up and down my body.
20 Sometime, when I had a problem I wanted to commit suicide.

21 It moves, it's something just spreads and moves. I knew it
22 was cancer but the doctors couldn't tell me. We can't find
23 out what it was. But today I live a miserable life, really
24 miserable. I don't know if I'm going to go blind the next
25 minute or my liver's going to go out or whatever. But the

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1 doctor told me that the minute I feel something, rush, come
2 to him. Rush, come to him. What if I'm on vacation or on
3 a trip somewhere and something goes wrong? My life has

4 totally changed. My father right now he's low, sick. My
5 relatives that worked at the Test Site, they're all sick.

6 I'm asking you to move quickly. Let us try to
7 enjoy something while as we yet have time.

8 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, sir. Bev is up next and
9 Pete Sandoval, I believe, is on deck. Is -- yeah, Bev
10 Aleck. Yes, you're up, Bev. And then Pete's next.

11 MS. ALECK: Secretary Michaels, my name is Bev
12 Aleck and I'm here from the State of Alaska concerning the
13 atomic tests that were conducted out at Amchitka Island in
14 the Aleutian chain. Thank you for your concern about the
15 civilian work force that has been employed at DOE
16 facilities, and thank you for your interest in uncovering
17 the injustices done to these workers and for seeking to

18 improve compensation for those workers who have been harmed

19 from their employment with the DOE and for their survivors.

20 My experience with DOE and compensation, I am the

21 widow of one such worker, a laborer who worked at Amchitka

22 Island during the atomic bomb tests during the late 1960s

23 and early '70s. My husband, Nick Aleck, died from chronic

24 myelogenous leukemia three years after leaving the DOE site

25 at Amchitka on Christmas day in 1975.

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1 Following the death I filed a claim under the
2 Alaska workers compensation statute and a wrongful death
3 claim against the U.S. government. To fight the DOE I had
4 to fight the DOE, its contractors, and their insurance
5 carriers for 25 years before prevailing on the statute of
6 limitation issue in the state. In the course of this
7 struggle I came in contact with many of the workers who had
8 been at Amchitka and their survivors and most of them
9 believed they had been placed in harm's way by working at
10 Amchitka.

11 I wish I could sit here today and tell you that my
12 government responded to my concerns with compassion and
13 understanding. Instead what I encountered was a scorched
14 earth defense, lies, and misleading information, and a

15 run-around designed for one purpose only, to make me and my
16 claims go away. I wish I could also tell you that my
17 government's hostile response to the concerns of the
18 Amchitka workers arose from simply neglect. But I came to
19 the conclusion it was deliberate, organized, and
20 extraordinarily well-financed. The government had much to
21 cover up as a result of its activities at Amchitka. I will
22 simply summarize four of the more serious concerns.

23 Safety and health protection: Workers were not
24 trained, did not receive protective equipment, and were not
25 monitored. Much of the underground work at Amchitka took

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1 place in confined places, including drilling and blasting,
2 but without ventilation or respirators or any kind of
3 hearing protection.

4 Unaccounted for radiation sources: In the course
5 of construction, radiation sources were lost and
6 unaccounted for, clearly resulting in potential worker
7 exposures.

8 False reporting: Although most workers did not
9 have radiation badges, NIOSH has found several cases where
10 there are significant discrepancies between radiation
11 levels reported in logs compared to readings on individual

12 radiation badges.

13 Missing reports: Many of the reports by the
14 Everline Instrument Corporation, which was responsible for
15 environment, safety, and health monitoring on the site,
16 have disappeared.

17 I will also briefly summarize problems that I and
18 many other workers have had in trying to file worker
19 compensation claims. The withholding of information was
20 needed and you could not substantiate claims has been
21 withheld from the claimants using national security as
22 justification.

23 Mischaracterization of withheld information: The
24 government and its contractors have made misleading
25 statements about risk based on erroneous presentation of

1 information from classified documents not available to the
2 claimants.

3 Procedural obstacles: Workers employed at
4 Amchitka are required to file claims in Alaska under the
5 Alaska statute yet the documentation needed to support the
6 claim is here in Nevada. Also many workers who are ill or
7 deceased are now scattered across the U.S. where they or
8 their survivors are creating numerous jurisdictional

9 obstacles in filing worker compensation claims.

10 Unreasonable burden of proof: While the
11 defendants are huge national and international companies or
12 corporations insured by casualty carriers with unlimited
13 resources and backed up and probably indemnified by the
14 DOE, claimants are expected to carry the costs of proving
15 their case themselves. In any case we had to hire a
16 Canadian epidemiologist to conduct a radiation risk
17 assessment, only to find the defendants having contracted
18 with two radiation experts to refute the risk assessment.
19 I should point out that this happened only last year.

20 Discrimination: A top-level federal employee
21 personally told me that federal government employees at
22 Amchitka had not been subjected to the kinds of abuses that
23 contract workers had been faced with when filing claims.

24 Their claims were promptly settled under the FICA act,

25 under our tax dollars.

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1 Clearly if the intent was to deny workers the
2 compensation they are entitled to, it's not hard. We don't
3 have any money, we can't afford the lawyers. We don't have
4 access to experts. Obviously the employers can prevail in
5 most cases and that's why we're supposed to have a no-fault

6 system. But I can testify to you that I have 25 years of
7 experience in my own case and nothing but ill treatment
8 from the government and its contractors. I cannot account
9 for all of the hours and times and money that has been
10 spent, but I'm sure it would total more than a million
11 dollars.

12 Obviously that amount will never be recovered but
13 there has been something more important at stake that has
14 driven me all these years and this is it: I have felt my
15 husband was wronged by being poorly protected on the job
16 and subsequently I was wronged by the scorched earth
17 defense the government put up against my claim. Two
18 injustices were done by my government and I was willing to
19 fight to the end to have this set right so that hopefully
20 it won't happen to someone else.

21 The government controlled the documents and they
22 were the defendants. They and their contractors were the
23 defendants. So, for one, I thank you from the bottom of my
24 heart for what you're trying to do. We need a simplified
25 system. The Amchitka, Alaska inclusion under the FICA act

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1 makes sense and we make the following additional
2 recommendations:

3 Include the Alaska workers in the Energy Employees
4 Beryllium Compensation Act and extend it to cover all
5 occupational illnesses. The special provisions found in
6 Titles 1 and -- or excuse me, 2 and 3 should be extended to
7 all DOE facilities and within those facilities, to all
8 contractor and subcontractor workers.

9 Include the Amchitka workers in the pending
10 amendments to the radiation exposure compensation act, and
11 extend the act to cover all occupational illnesses
12 associated with work at Amchitka.

13 Adopt two changes the VA included in its August
14 31, 1999, directive on radiation-induced diseases pursuant
15 to public law 102 to 226 and public law 105 to 638. It
16 provides presumption for at least 33 diseases and does not
17 place any restriction on their coverage due to possible

18 cofounding exposures such as smoking, alcohol, et cetera,
19 nor does it specify the need to prove a certain level of
20 radiation exposure to become eligible. All it requires is
21 evidence of opportunity for significant occupational
22 exposures.

23 The former worker medical program: I was lucky
24 because they have AFL/CIO, and the Laborers Union in Alaska
25 has helped me with the fight for all these years. I came

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1 to know more Amchitka workers and their survivors. I found
2 there seemed to be many who had developed or died from
3 diseases that are associated with radiation exposures.
4 Gradually a group of us started to talk about how we should
5 have a medical program for the workers at Amchitka. When
6 DOE started the former worker medical monitoring program,
7 the Alaska state district counsel of laborers sought
8 funding to develop that program for the Amchitka workers.
9 In November of '99 we finally got funding to start this
10 program as part of the agreement that exists with the State
11 of Alaska and the DOE. We got together leading experts to
12 design a program under the guidance of a broad-based
13 advisory committee.

14 We have three concerns about this project we hope

15 you can resolve: one, we need full funding, not just the
16 six-month start-up period. It now appears that funding has
17 been committed beyond the start-up period and we just want
18 to be sure that it is fully restored in order to maintain
19 the continuity in the program.

20 We need to collect information on deceased
21 workers. So far DOE has declined to support our plan to
22 collect limited information on deceased workers when we
23 encounter a survivor who wants to provide such information
24 to us. We believe such information may be useful to help
25 pinpoint where and how the most hazardous exposures took

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1 place. We also believe this information may be useful to
2 DOE as it contemplates compensation to survivors. Both our
3 lay committees, which include survivors, and technical
4 experts believe this is important and it won't really add
5 any cost to the budget.

6 We want to include --

7 MR. CLAIRE: Bev, Bev, could we please --

8 MS. ALECK: I'll just summarize.

9 MR. CLAIRE: If you would, then, hand that in so
10 we could have it on the record. Maybe it would be great to
11 have Dr. Michaels have a copy of that.

12 MS. ALECK: Sure. There was a period of time in
13 the late '80s and early '90s at Amchitka involving what was
14 called a back scatter project, and we wanted to be sure
15 that workers, although that was run by the Navy, that it is
16 included in the complete program at Amchitka because the
17 radiation exposures were still there during that time
18 frame. And we think that DOE should support the program for
19 the entire population.

20 Mr. Secretary, I want to thank you for listening
21 to me and we look forward to seeing you support the
22 requests that we've made. We commend your efforts to
23 implement an appropriate law in Congress to address the
24 above worker improprieties. And Alaskans will assist that
25 effort in any way that we can.

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1 MR. CLAIRE: I don't aim to cut anybody else off
2 short, it's just in fairness to everybody that we need to
3 keep things moving. Pete, you are up next. And I believe
4 it's Yvonne Flowers would be on deck.

5 MR. SANDOVAL: Good morning. My name's Pete
6 Sandoval and I went to work at the Test Site in 1961. And
7 I worked with a lot of radiation and a lot of silica sand
8 dust and asbestos. Throughout my time at the Nevada Test

9 Site I was working all the drill backs and doing all the
10 sample recovery from the shots.

11 But the main reason I'm here is because I got a
12 spot in my lung that's about the size of quarter and I went
13 to the doctors and I went to a specialist and he keeps
14 saying that it's from scar tissue from valley fever. Well,
15 I took physicals every year when I was at the Test Site and
16 I have never, ever been diagnosed with valley fever. And I
17 seem -- myself, I think that it's either from the silica
18 sand dust from the asbestos or radiation because that's all
19 I ever done was work at the Test Site.

20 And the other problem that I have is I have a
21 hearing problem just like everybody else around here
22 because I worked -- working in the drilling, you work in a

23 lot of high noise level with the big engines that we worked
24 in and we worked with a lot of diesel smoke because we had
25 -- two particular rigs that we had out there that were,

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1 every time you revved the engines up you have a big cloud
2 of smoke that you couldn't see the guy standing next to
3 you. And that happened daily for many years.

4 And if people weren't out there while we was doing
5 the drill backs back in the '60s they didn't know how

6 severe that was because we would drill into a puddle and
7 you would have steam coming up from 2400 feet down and
8 rocks and mud. And I was working -- at the time I was
9 working 90 feet up in the derrick of the rig and that mud
10 and stuff would go right past me, right through the pipe
11 and then come right back down on us and we'd have to try to
12 kill it with some more fluids. And we would -- and that's
13 the way we worked it. They put us in flight suits so we
14 wouldn't get burned and we were exposed to a lot of stuff
15 that we didn't know nothing about.

16 So that's about all I have. So I'll let somebody
17 else take over.

18 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Next would be
19 Yvonne and then on deck would be Dr. Harris, I believe.

20 MS. FLOWERS: I'm doing this in honor of my dad.

21 This is a picture of my father. I need your special

22 attention focused on this letter. As you have heard, my

23 74-years-old dad served this country for over 20 years as a

24 foreman. Also he was a laborer in the beginning. As I

25 stated he was a foreman over the construction workers

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1 following him being a laborer. He struggled hard, working

2 at the Test Site in Las Vegas in the tunnel and outward.

3 He did his job and a job well done.

4 Now almost three years ago and passing, he is
5 looking down at us and saying let justice be done, leaving
6 my mom a widow alone as she awaits to be heard. We are
7 fighting for compensation. When you have put in all of
8 your life for your wife and your kids and these days and
9 times you're barely making it, especially with having to
10 raise 14 children -- yes, there was 14 of us -- and
11 radiation contributing to your body and causing you to be
12 dysfunctional, not even being able use the bathroom through
13 your buttocks. Also your sexual drive evaporates, and you
14 have tumors as a widespread from making an honest living.
15 Can you imagine this being you or your family member?

16 There is no reason for the wait. Please give my

17 mom justice for what was caused. She should be entitled
18 for her compensation from her 51-year loving relationship
19 with her husband, the late Reverend John Brooks, Sr.

20 I will close this with saying in the beginning of
21 my father's work history, back in the '60s, he had severe
22 stomach problems, gas. It was so bad that you couldn't
23 even go into restroom behind him and which we believed the
24 cancer had started then, but it just wasn't revealed at
25 that time. Can you imagine wearing a bag on the side of

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1 your body to use bathroom? He bled for three months

2 straight and never said a word.

3 He was a very strong, spiritual man. So many

4 people knew my dad and loved him because of his love for

5 our Lord Jesus Christ. In the end we all watched him take

6 his last and final breath. He will always be remembered by

7 his preaching to the sick, the poor, and the atheists.

8 For the closure of my letter I am asking you to

9 surrender to my mom and deliver her.

10 One more thing before I leave, and before I leave

11 this podium or whatever it is, I want to say I salute

12 everybody in this audience, the families and the victims

13 that have gone through what I'm going through.

14 To the system and government, we're all devastated
15 and we're fighting back. We're not going to let you sit
16 back and do nothing any longer. If this was your family
17 you would do something about it.

18 So, dear God, I stand before you to touch me and
19 my mom and my family and everybody in this audience today
20 and do something right now in the name of you. And may
21 your will be done.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Dr. Harris, you
24 will be up next and after that Fred Love will be on deck.

25 DR. HARRISON: Thank you. My name is Robert

1 Harrison, with an "o-n" at the end, and I'm from the
2 University of California San Francisco. And I'm an
3 occupational health physician, been working in occupational
4 medicine for over 15 years. And I am the investigator with
5 Boston University in charge of the medical screening
6 project for former Nevada Test Site workers and I've met
7 many of the people here in this room and have grown to
8 become friends with many of them and admire them greatly.

9 I really have just three things that I'd like to
10 share with you. I really actually felt that this was a day

11 that I wasn't going to speak because you need to hear the
12 stories of the people in this room and that's really --
13 these are the experts that you need to hear from.

14 But the first I wanted to say that the stories,
15 the disease and disability that you've been hearing so far
16 which are tremendously moving for me, I've heard with my
17 colleagues over 900 times in the last year and a half. So
18 what you're hearing today, we hear repeatedly when we come
19 to Las Vegas every three months and we examine former
20 workers at the Nevada Test Site. We hear the same stories
21 of dust diseases of the lung, cancer, and many other
22 diseases. We hear the stories of radiation exposure,
23 badges that have been lost or have been conveniently
24 disregarded. We hear about the hazards that the former

25 workers have experienced without adequate protection or

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1 knowledge.

2 The second is that when we uncover these diseases

3 as part of our screening program we also hear repeatedly,

4 like we heard from the widow -- I'm sorry, I don't recall

5 her name -- from Alaska, about the long and usually

6 discouraging fight for compensation.

7 And the third point is that, what can we really do

8 at this point? How can these workers achieve justice? And
9 my view is to support the need for a fair and uniform
10 criteria on a federal level for compensating victims of
11 exposure to radiation and chemical exposure, not only at
12 the Test Site but of course at all the other facilities
13 around the country.

14 The Alaska state compensation system, as we've
15 heard, is a tremendous uphill fight. In the experience
16 that we've had over the last couple of years, the Nevada
17 state compensation system doesn't provide, in my view, the
18 adequate system to achieve really fair review using
19 established medical criteria that can really fairly
20 compensate the people that need to be compensated for work
21 at the Nevada Test Site. In my view the only system that

22 would ensure fair compensation without putting the victims
23 and their family through unnecessary expense, distress, to
24 eventually die in some cases before ever achieving
25 compensation would be the type of federal program that's

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1 been proposed and that does need to be expanded to the
2 other facilities in the Department of Energy complex.

3 So I thank you very much for coming. I also thank
4 you, the Department of Energy representative Dr. Michaels,

5 for providing funding so that the medical screening program

6 continues.

7 Finally, we have passed out a flier for the

8 medical screening program because Sandy Medina, who's

9 sitting in the front row, who's really the heart and soul

10 with us of the screening program, noticed that the 800

11 number that you gave out is incorrect. So we passed out

12 the brochure so everybody has the correct number. And we

13 want to make sure everybody has that right information.

14 Thank you very much.

15 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Dr. Harrison. Fred Love

16 would be up next and then I believe we'll take a short

17 break.

18 MR. LOVE: Good morning. My name is Fred Love. I

19 almost feel like after hearing the stories of some of the
20 people in this room my case is very simple. But I'm going
21 to read direct from the notes because of my memory loss.

22 During the years of '85 and '86 I was employed by
23 EG&G, who was a contractor of the Department of Energy. My
24 job description was helicopter pilot. This branch of EG&G
25 was very new operations so we did not have any type of

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1 operations manual or guidelines. Most of the time our
2 mission during duty hours was determined by events that
3 developed at the time or what we were told to do by our
4 supervisors.

5 During my period of employment there were two
6 types of incidents I believe contributed to my current
7 health condition. It is now public knowledge that several
8 of the nuclear tests within this time frame had vented into
9 the atmosphere. The term controlled release has also been
10 used to describe what happened during these tests. We
11 would normally fly very low altitude reconnaissance
12 missions over the area where there had just been a test as
13 much as one to two hours. And it's still not clear exactly
14 what we was supposed to be looking for. Later, after it
15 was revealed in local newspapers that some of the tests had

16 vented, then I suspected I'd been exposed to the
17 atmospheric radiation by continually flying over these
18 areas.

19 As time went by, I began to slowly lose the sight
20 in my right eye. I made a lot of trips to my doctor who
21 continually assured me that it was normal to lose the
22 eyesight in one eye and not the other. Finally when it was
23 so advanced I could no longer see even large objects with
24 the right eye without severe distortion, I went to a
25 different doctor who immediately diagnosed a melanoma tumor

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1 in that eye. It had already grown too large to try and
2 safely treat it in any way except to remove my eye along
3 with the tumor. Several doctors who examined it said it
4 was a very rare form of cancer often associated with
5 radiation. I was informed there is also a 75 percent
6 chance this will return. There is no history of any type
7 of cancer in my family so I firmly believe this was one of
8 the incidents that was the catalyst for the development of
9 the cancer.

10 Another incident at the time of my employment was
11 involving the night vision goggles we were required to use
12 for night flying. Again we did not have any guidelines

13 regarding the NVGs. We were only instructed on how to fly
14 and function at night wearing them. One of the pilots
15 accidentally dropped a pair of the goggles and cracked the
16 right lens. They seemed to be functional so we were told
17 to go ahead and use them until such time they could be sent
18 back to the manufacturer and repaired. I personally used
19 the damaged goggles on several occasions as I was on
20 permanent duty as a nighttime pilot.

21 Later I happened onto a military manual for NVGs
22 and on the very first page it describes the dangers to your
23 health if the intensifier tubes are leaking. The military
24 wording of the warning is as follows:

25 "The image intensifier tube in each monocular

1 contains toxic materials. A broken tube may be caused from
2 damage to binocular assembly especially if monocular
3 housing is cracked by force. If tube breaks, do not inhale
4 phosphorus green material. Do not allow phosphorus green
5 material to come in contact with mouth or open wounds. If
6 phosphorus green material comes in contact with skin, wash
7 immediately with soap and water. If phosphorus green
8 material is inhaled, swallowed, induce vomiting and see a
9 doctor right away."

10 It would seem that if you were using any type of
11 tool or gear in your daily work that had this much
12 potential danger that you should be made aware of it.
13 However this information was never made available to me
14 during my employment.

15 Since the removal my eye three years ago I have
16 not been able to obtain another commercial flying job,
17 although I have passed an FAA flight test that proves I can
18 still fly. I've been interviewed by several companies for
19 pilot positions, but when they realize I only have one eye
20 they find some reason not to hire me, because flying a
21 helicopter you need three. But I -- my aviation career has
22 spanned over 30 years, and now I find I can't get a quality
23 flying job and never will again. I'm 60 years old and feel

24 it's too late to start a new career. This problem has had
25 a profound effect on myself and my wife of 38 years and our

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1 family both financially and emotionally.

2 I am not and have not received any type of
3 compensation from the government or the state, not even
4 unemployment, and I'm a veteran of the Army with an
5 honorable discharge. And I've contributed for many years
6 as a citizen of the United States. Now I'd just like to

7 ask the government for a little assistance back. Thank
8 you.

9 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much.

10 MS. BERKLEY: Before we break I just wanted to
11 share with you some of my feelings after hearing this.
12 I've only been in Congress for a year but I grew up here in
13 Las Vegas and a lot my friends when I was growing up had
14 parents that worked at the Nevada Test Site. And I
15 remember going to their houses and sitting at the kitchen
16 table and having their parents, primarily their dads,
17 regaling us about the stories of what they'd seen and
18 experienced at the Nevada Test Site. And this was back in
19 the days when nobody knew any better and we were being told
20 that everything was perfectly safe. And I remember vividly

21 the stories because they sounded so exciting to me as a
22 young kid.

23 But all of these people are dead now, and they
24 died from cancers and various lung diseases. And I still
25 have many of these friends and we talk about their parents

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1 and their dads and the stories they told us about their
2 experiences at the Nevada Test Site. But we now know how
3 dangerous and how they were placed in harm's way by our

4 government.

5 And now that I'm in a position that I can do
6 something about this, by gosh, I plan to do something about
7 this. And the very notion that people that worked at the
8 Nevada Test Site are not part of this compensation is so
9 unconscionable to me I can't even begin to understand how
10 that oversight occurred. But as long as I'm here and as
11 long as the federal government has finally acknowledged
12 culpability in this situation, it's about time that we do
13 get the appropriate compensation.

14 And when I say that, I know there is no
15 appropriate compensation for loss of a loved one or for
16 loss of sight or for loss of hearing and lung diseases and
17 early death, but I can promise you that I will work as hard

18 as I can with the Department of Energy, with your secretary
19 who has been a very, very good friend to Nevada, and with
20 this administration to make sure that this nation lives up
21 to this responsibility and make sure that our government do
22 what is right. And the very notion that that woman from
23 Alaska had to battle for 25 years against her own
24 government to do what was right as an American, as an
25 American it breaks my heart, it insults me. But as a

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1 congresswoman it gives me inspiration to work all the

2 harder.

3 So thank you all very much.

4 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Congresswoman Berkley. At

5 this time let's take about a ten- or fifteen-minute break

6 and then we'll come back and continue on. Thank you.

7 (RECESS)

8 MR. CLAIRE: Okay. Let's go ahead and start back

9 up here. John Taylor is up, and on deck is Carin Frost and

10 Judith Albright.

11 MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. My name is John

12 Taylor. I was a heavy duty repairman at the Test Site from

13 1969 to 1992. I worked in all the areas. I was in the

14 Baneberry blast around all the hot holes as well as a lot

15 of these other people here. In 1973 lost my left eye from
16 industrial injury at the Test Site, followed 17 years later
17 with two back injuries resulting from a fall and lifting
18 186-pound batteries for 25 years for DOE.

19 After that I gained chronic blood pressure. The
20 high blood pressure requires me to take five medications a
21 day. In 1999, that's last year, I was diagnosed with
22 prostate cancer. In this last year they've said that
23 people with prostate cancer are four times more likely to
24 come down with colon cancer. I've developed skin problems
25 and was referred for these lesions on my back and my chest

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1 and arms to a dermatologist for my skin problems. I was
2 referred from the screening program. The doctor at first
3 thought it was just sarcosis but the way it's grown back on
4 me he wants to file a claim. And of course SIIS has denied
5 my claim. I've got scarring on my lungs. I've developed
6 breathing problems. I'm on two and a half percent at
7 oxygen at nighttime.

8 I filed my occupational disease claim even though
9 I have a pension from SIIS in 1999, and they didn't even
10 answer me in the compliance of the 30-day working rules.
11 They finally decided to give me some hearing aids, but

12 they've denied my chronic panuveitis, chronic rhinitis,
13 pulmonary lesions and sleep apnea and cancer and my skin
14 problems. All these were denied simply by getting my
15 medical records and said they did a factual investigation.
16 They never even remarked on the doctor's progress notes,
17 saying there was a simple explanation for the exposures
18 that I was related to.

19 I had a hearing on January the 25th. I've accused
20 the SIIS of fraud, actionable fraud, criminal fraud. The
21 hearings officer, Steve Evans, who is Blackie Evans of the
22 AFL/CIO stated, Mr. Taylor, he says, I don't know what your
23 financial condition is, but he says you're receiving a
24 pension right now and he says you might just want to leave
25 this new occupational disease claim lay.

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1 In the past I've been threatened that they're
2 going to put a bullet in my head. And other documents that
3 I've filed with the FBI in case they do off me. All this
4 has been denied over the years to a lot of workers, not
5 just me. And I'm here today on behalf of the Southern
6 Nevada Association of Injured Workers. Also in the
7 state-run system which is actually -- DOE, as you know the
8 case holdings is a fiduciary for our injuries. They're

9 responsible. I think that the DOE, the government should
10 increase these people's -- with all our illnesses, our
11 quality of life and give us medical benefits and
12 compensation while we're alive. All of these people out
13 here, as somebody said earlier, we're going to be dead.
14 Most of us are dead by the age of 60. And that's mainly
15 why I came down here today. I think that there should be
16 some type of a program, FICA or whatever, to increase a
17 person's quality of life when they come down with these
18 afflictions.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. CLAIRE: Carlin Frost and Judith Albright is
21 up and then Margrette Makram. During the break -- I'd like
22 to make a comment here -- during the break a lot of people

23 came up to talk. And some people don't want to speak and,
24 you know, that's okay if you don't want or if you have to
25 pull out and can't make it. You've got the forms you can

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1 fill out and you've got the toll-free number. If you need
2 them, come ask us next time, get them from the tables. We
3 don't want to miss anyone.

4 But also I've had other people ask about, they had
5 doctor's papers and reports and different things. As we

6 said before, if you fill out documentations and get the
7 address, go ahead and send copies of these along with it.
8 You don't have to send the originals.

9 Dr. Michaels.

10 DR. MICHAELS: May I just add for those of you who
11 are still here, one of the things that the Nevada
12 operations office will do for you is provide you with a
13 history of radiation exposure. If you don't know what your
14 exposure history is you can fill it out, there's a form
15 that you can get just in the room right outside here that
16 you can fill out here. You can send it in to us. Because
17 it's a freedom -- it requires -- there's some medical
18 confidentiality involved, we need to know how it's used, so
19 we need to get a photo of your driver's license or some
20 other identification to go with it to ensure that your

21 signature is correct. And there are people in the back
22 room who can give you the forms and help you fill it out.
23 We've a self-addressed stamped envelope you can put it in
24 to get it to us. If you'd like more information we'd like
25 to encourage you to do that. Thank you.

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1 MS. FROST: My name is Carin Frost and this is my
2 sister, Darcy Albright. We are the daughters of Gaylen

3 Albright. We have a younger sister who is 15 years old.

4 She's in school. She can't be here. We are here with our
5 mother to tell you about our father.

6 He began work in March of 1960. He was 18 years
7 old. He worked there until September of 1997. He was
8 exposed -- he worked as a mechanic and worked on many
9 pieces of equipment that had been used in bombing and he
10 was exposed many times. He told us he had to take showers
11 and they took his clothes from him.

12 He was diagnosed in July of 1998 with thyroid
13 cancer which had spread to his bones. He died last May and
14 he applied for -- he did not apply for workmen's comp
15 because he knew there was no point. He applied for
16 radiation compensation but he was denied because under the
17 Compensation Act you have to be 20 years old to have --

18 when you were exposed to have contracted thyroid caused --

19 which they said was caused by radiation exposure. He was

20 20 years and six months.

21 We would just like to see that some sort of

22 compensation is made available to our mother and our sister

23 who have -- not that compensation can bring back our father

24 who died. He was 57 years old.

25 We also want to mention his brother is here today.

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1 He has been diagnosed with -- I don't know what he has now.

2 But he has had different cancers and he worked out there

3 for many years also. So that's all we want to say.

4 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Margrette is up

5 next and John -- or Thomas Albanese will be on deck.

6 MS. MAKRAM: My name is Margrette Makram. I was a

7 senior nuclear engineer and a health physicist at the

8 Department of Energy. I worked for Nevada Test Site for a

9 while as an environmental engineer for all these old sites,

10 and then I was transferred to Los Alamos area office to

11 look after all these old sites and cleanup. And in January

12 of '92 through the in vivo measurements I was tested

13 positive for plutonium, americium, and depleted uranium.

14 The test was repeated in two months, came positive again.

15 During that period of time I had problems with my
16 lungs and of course as a health physics program decided
17 that because I'm too fat its positive results are not good.
18 So because of my expertise and in what I was doing I
19 protested all this. Of course they repeated the test again
20 at the Savannah River with a correction for other things
21 and it tested positive again for radium and americium and
22 potassium 40. And when all of these results came we have
23 to go through all these medical screening and urine
24 bioassay and blood samples and all that good stuff.
25 Of course when it came back negative I questioned

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1 all the results. I don't want to say this in a public
2 meeting but CEP got indicted for falsifying urine and blood
3 test bioassay. That was the result of the complete
4 investigation.

5 Anyway my health went downhill. I'm losing my
6 eyesight. I have a neurological condition which causes
7 bloodflow in the brain will be disturbed, losing my
8 hearing, losing my bone, and the DOE keep fighting the
9 workers comp application. Workers comp have no problem
10 with the medical condition, but DOE keep denying anything.
11 Right now it's in the appeals process which gave the DOE a

12 December 20th deadline and they didn't even respond and I

13 don't know what to do anymore.

14 Thank you.

15 DR. MICHAELS: I think perhaps afterwards you and

16 I should speak. Thank you.

17 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. We have a new

18 lineup here that's just changed a little bit. Jack

19 Simmons, I believe -- Simmons. And Fiona Hawkins will be

20 on deck. Is Jack here?

21 Would Fiona be here? Okay. We'll move on and

22 hold those. Patrick McCormick. Is Patrick McCormick here?

23 Okay.

24 And Dave Eddards, I believe, will be on deck.

25 MR. MCORMICK: I'm Patrick C. McCormick, and I was

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1 out to Mercury in the year of '55 and I was around ground
2 zero quite a bit, took in some radiation there. Then I
3 went overseas to the hydrogen test and that was in '56.
4 And then I went back again in '57 and I think that's where
5 I got most of my radiation. We -- after the shot, we went
6 in and took off some instruments. I come back home,
7 everything was good until 1980. They took a cancer off the
8 side of me and then six months later it came back, so they

9 took it again. And then I was good until '98.

10 In July of '98 I came down with lymphoma cancer.

11 And they took out one testicle and then I went through the

12 CAT scan. They said usually if you test clear, we'd have

13 to go to CAT scan and it goes to the brain possibly. So

14 they gave me that, and then they put me on chemotherapy for

15 three months. That last one about killed me.

16 Then I was good until the spring of '99 I come

17 back and another cancer showed on my eyelid and another one

18 on my shoulder. So they took them both off. They were

19 both malignant.

20 And then last week they operated the one on my

21 shoulder again, it came back. And I was down there

22 yesterday and they said well, the specimens they took off

23 showed there's more in there, so they'll go down deeper and
24 take it off probably in another month as soon as this heals
25 up. That's where I'm at.

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1 Thank you.

2 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you.

3 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you very much.

4 MR. CLAIRE: David -- Dave Eddards, I believe.

5 And I believe a Frank Hawkins. Would Frank Hawkins be on

6 deck next.

7 MR. EDDARDS: My name is Dave Eddards. I worked
8 at the Test Site for approximately ten years, off and on
9 from 1958 to 1969. I'm a little embarrassed to come up
10 here in view of those people that's preceded me with the
11 problems they do have.

12 The lady from Alaska basically I think summed it
13 up pretty much. My thinking really parallels her
14 summation. But myself -- and I'm not that old but I lost
15 my train of thought -- but myself I was fortunate enough to
16 get my medical records, my radiation history, my personnel
17 action slips, employment history from Bechtel and because
18 of that then I'm take able to see really what has occurred
19 since I was out at the Test Site.

20 It seems that I have silicosis. To what extent

21 I'm really not certain because I'm not a doctor. I know my

22 loss of hearing is getting worse every day and I don't have

23 to be a doctor to read the audiograms that I have that was

24 taken when I was at the Test Site as opposed to the

25 audiograms I've had recently.

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1 I'm presently -- I've appealed a decision for --

2 through employer's insurance company for my loss of

3 hearing. I have a hearing scheduled for next month

4 although if it's any indication of what the others that's

5 went before me I know what it will be. It will be another

6 denial.

7 But nevertheless I think probably my main concern

8 at this point is the families of my friends that's

9 predeceased me. And of course it's been said here time and

10 time again that the government has flat refused to

11 acknowledge that they died because of the diseases

12 contracted at the Nevada Test Site and these people are

13 left hanging out on a limb. Again that's my main concern.

14 I know that I'm right now in the process of where --

15 because radiation exposure -- and again I have my radiation

16 history from Bechtel, that's how I'm able to determine the

17 amount of rems that I have received since I was out at the

18 Test Site and because of that I really don't know the

19 long-term effect.

20 I don't know what's going to happen in the future.

21 If I'm really incapacitated, who's going to take care of

22 the doctor bills? I know my insurance won't. I know

23 Medicare certainly won't. So I don't know, is the

24 Department of Energy willing to foot those bills? Is the

25 Department of Energy willing to take care of my family?

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1 These are my concerns at the present time. And I thank you
2 for the opportunity to share them with you.

3 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you. Frank Hawkins is up. And
4 Dorothy Clayton is on deck.

5 MR. HAWKINS: Howdy. My name Frank Hawkins, Sr.
6 I came to Nevada in 1952 and I joined the local in 1954,
7 labor locals. And I've been working at the Test Site. I
8 started out at the Test Site in 1955. I went through all
9 the tower shots. I was q-cleared in '56 and once you got
10 q-cleared you were obligated to work anywhere in the Test
11 Site. When we had different color badges they didn't let
12 red badges go into different hot areas. So I've got some
13 stuff here that I have worked all of these shots.

14 And I have problems. I've got eight different
15 breathing -- air-breathing little deals I have to take as
16 my lungs clog up and this radiation -- they say radiation
17 do not hurt you. That's wrong. Radiation, I have slept on
18 top of the cover with my wife and she'd be freezing and I'm
19 laying on top of the covers with pajamas on. Radiation, I
20 drank so much water I weighed 303 pounds. Now I found a
21 doctor that, Dr. Strauss, he give me medication and stuff
22 and I lost weight down to 187 pounds again.

23 Now at times just radiation come back and just
24 heat your body, my skin scald. I have to drink all this
25 water to stay cool. You don't drink cold water. If you

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1 drink cold water you just bust wide open trying to drink
2 the water.

3 Now another thing I don't understand, we worked at
4 the Test Site and you have to file for to get your social
5 security. They don't want to pay you Social Security out
6 of all this money that I have made. They tell me that I
7 didn't make this money, but I got it right here. It come
8 from the government and they still denying me of my social
9 security. They only paid me such a little amount of social
10 security when I worked all these years and I got the proof,

11 and they still don't want to pay.

12 I'm scared to go a doctor, talking about claiming
13 something for they deny you. It's not fair. So a lot of
14 things I hurt and ache, I don't even -- I take medication
15 and I try to, you know, suit myself because they will deny
16 you.

17 And I got four kids. All those kids, two of them
18 have had operations. And the number 2 daughter needs
19 operation bad. She is huge, fat. I brought this radiation
20 from the Test Site and gave it to my wife, and them kids
21 developed that stuff. It's not fair. But what can we do?
22 We have to go with the flow, I guess so. But anyway I have
23 problems and I'd like to get some help too.

24 Thank you.

25

MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Dorothy Clayton

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1 and Tommie Richard is on deck.

2 MS. CLAYTON: Hello. I'm Dorothy Clayton. My

3 husband, Glenn Clayton, worked at the Test Site for 29 and

4 a half years. From 1958 to 1971 he led the recovery teams

5 into the tunnels after the nuclear events. That was his

6 responsibility and in those early years there was no

7 containment at all. They went back into very serious

8 hazardous conditions, radiation problems, and as the leader
9 of those teams that was his requirement. He was required
10 to go back into those areas after the events. They had no
11 guidelines either at that time. Up until 1968 there was no
12 guidelines.

13 And then DOD and Sandia published a manual that
14 covered some of the guidelines they were to use in going
15 back into the tunnels to recover the data that they needed.
16 However, even after the guidelines were printed and
17 distributed they still were required to go into the areas
18 that were hazardous.

19 Glenn developed five different types of cancer.
20 He had two in his lungs, two in his head, one in his
21 bladder. And they were all different types. He did go

22 through the NTS medical surveillance program. However, he
23 passed away not too long after that. He was referred to a
24 Dr. Sood. We took him over there and we couldn't -- he
25 was, got sick in the doctor's office. We had to leave.

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1 And he also had, his vocal cords were impaired he couldn't
2 speak above a whisper during that time.

3 Before he passed away he dictated a ten-page work
4 history for me to continue his fight. It relates all of

5 the problems that he had while he was up there. One of his
6 doctors told him that when they removed his bladder that it
7 looked very much like radon caused the cancer in his
8 bladder. The oncologist on his last lung cancer said that
9 it looked -- he was sure that it was caused from radiation.

10 Glenn was really proud of his job. He hired in in
11 1958 as a miner. He worked in that position for two weeks
12 before they saw he was capable of higher jobs and when he
13 left the tunnels in 1971 he was project manager. He went
14 to Area 3 as a department manager and he retired from there
15 in 1958 (sic). But while he was working in the tunnels he
16 was -- he was very proud. He loved his job. When he was
17 told to lose his film badge, he did that. When he was told
18 three times that he would have to get special approval from

19 Washington to continue working in radiation, he did that.

20 That was three different times, that special documentation

21 had to be from Washington to let him continue working in

22 the radiation.

23 But I've been trying since October of '99 -- you

24 just mentioned the radiation exposure -- I've been trying

25 since October of '99 to get a copy of that. I haven't

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1 gotten that yet. So I don't know.

2 I also have sent documentation to Harry Reid's
3 office, Senator Reid, two times. I haven't had a response
4 and this has been going on since before Glenn passed away.
5 I called them after he passed away and they said they would
6 refer it to the Washington office. I have not heard
7 anything from the Washington office.

8 And the compensation that Glenn was after wasn't
9 big dollars, the medical bills over and above what the
10 insurance and Medicare paid. And we do have supplemental,
11 but just for the last year. He passed away in June of '99.
12 Medical bills out of our pocket was \$6500. So if you -- he
13 had cancer, like I say, five different kinds serious cancer
14 over a period of seven years. He also had skin cancers
15 removed which involved surgery and skin graft.

16 So whatever you can do for Glenn, you know, I
17 would appreciate that.

18 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Dorothy. Tommie Richard.

19 And next would be Alfred Morrison on deck.

20 MR. RICHARD: My name is Tommie Richard. I
21 started working at the Test Site in 1982 and I worked there
22 until '90. But in 1989 I was unable to do my duties
23 because I couldn't walk around the place because I kept
24 being congested and running out of breath. So finally I
25 went to -- kept going to the doctors and so I went to the

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1 Haaser Institution out on DI and they kept running these
2 things up my legs into my heart until they found out that I
3 had accumulated a -- what you call it? Arteries, bad
4 arteries, congested arteries or whatever.

5 And then in 1996 I had to have open heart surgery.
6 So I'm just here to, you know, see what can be done about
7 it. I have never followed it up or seen it whether I had a
8 problem, whether the problem come from the Test Site or
9 whatever. So this is my first time appearing or setting in
10 on one of these because most time I hear about it, it would
11 be too late anyway. So that's all I had to say.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Tommie. Alfred is up and
14 then Claude Albright will be on deck.

15 MR. MORRISON: My name is Alfred Morrison and
16 originally I've had serious problems. You know, I just had
17 that physical and that, and they said that you've got an
18 enlarged heart, you've got enlarged lungs, and it's -- the
19 only thing is it just gets to the point where everything
20 that happened now -- I worked at the Test Site from '81 to
21 '92 and I was a mechanic welder. And I had to work on all
22 these what people call recovery vehicles or reentry
23 vehicles. And I had to work on all them and unload all the
24 stuff out of the back of them.

25 When I first started there they used what they

1 called a film badge. Now in order to read a film badge you
2 had to be actually exposed to radiation, but that doesn't
3 say anything about what you were breathing and what you
4 were handling. It doesn't give that kind of exposure from
5 a film badge or even a dosimeter. That has to read, on a
6 very regular -- if there's an atomic explosion, that has to
7 read from that. It reads gamma and beta radiation. And
8 other than that I don't know what other kind there is.

9 But somewhere along the line I might have been

10 exposed to some of that, but it never shows on any
11 radiation exposure that you get off the film badge or from
12 the dosimeter, and it could have been all the chemicals
13 that I've been breathing all my days out there with diesel
14 fuel and all the solvents and everything else that goes
15 into that.

16 And just like these other fellows I'm not
17 expecting compensation for myself. I'm expecting
18 compensation for everybody that's involved with this. And
19 if you try to get into compensation from the state, you
20 know, like on SIIS, you might as well forgot that because
21 you have to hire an attorney to even get a claim through.
22 And when you do that he's going to take a third of what you
23 even get if you get compensation.

24 And I've got about 50 percent loss of hearing also

25 from welding and working air wrenches and stuff like that.

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1 And that's about all I have to say and appreciate you

2 listening.

3 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Claude Albright

4 is up, and Richard Hall is on deck.

5 MR. ALBRIGHT: My name is Claude Albright. I

6 worked out at the Test Site for 31 years. I got lung

7 cancer, colon cancer. I've got a tumor on my back. My
8 brother, which you just heard from his daughters awhile
9 ago, he died of bone cancer. My dad had a stroke, but we
10 found out later that he had cancer. We all worked out
11 there for over 30-some-odd years, and I think that we all
12 deserve and everybody else here deserves something for what
13 we did. I was an equipment greaser. I was exposed to
14 diesel fuel, fumes. I went every place there was to go on
15 that Test Site.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Richard Hall.

18 And Duane Lawrence is up next.

19 MR. HALL: First I'd like to say good morning.

20 And I'm glad to be here with all my fellow workers.

21 I'd like to say I started working at the Nevada
22 Test Site in '62. I worked as a laborer on top of the
23 ground, and I also worked as a miner later. And in my work
24 I come to find out I got hurt up there January 26th, '78,
25 and I didn't get compensated for that. The only thing I

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1 get a month is less than \$800 for working up there.

2 Then recently I went to the doctor, find out that

3 I was losing my hearing. And he said -- I brought the

4 information in also. And that's concerning me very much
5 because number 1, I got people's talked to me and they get
6 disgusted when I don't hear. But I tell them a lot of
7 times you touch me on the shoulder and I be able to hear
8 you.

9 But my main reason being here, there's a lot of us
10 workers here, and we are concerned, not only for ourself,
11 for our family also. If something should happen to any of
12 us, so many of our brothers gone on, so it may happen that
13 take us from God's earth. And we appreciate if you being
14 here and listening to us because we are concerned about
15 what happened to our bodies.

16 I didn't have no problems with my body until
17 January 26, I got hurt up there. And I came down with

18 blood clots, didn't know what it was, then in the meantime
19 they had to put a, do surgery on me three times for a
20 pacemaker. And the records show that I didn't have nothing
21 wrong with my heart and nothing else when I got hurt up
22 there. But still in all they didn't compensate me for
23 that. They give me less than the money I just mentioned,
24 and now I lost my hearing.

25 I appreciate you listening. Thank you very much.

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1 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Duane Lawrence
2 is up and McKay Dunn is on deck.

3 MR. LAWRENCE: I'm Duane Lawrence. I worked out
4 at the Nevada Test Site for 23 years. I filed two hearing
5 complaints against the State for assistance. Both of them
6 were denied, they said, due to earlier hearing loss
7 problems that I could have occurred at earlier jobs. The
8 jobs that I had before I started working out at the Test
9 Site was a high school teacher and with the American Red
10 Cross, not high-level noise jobs. So I feel that we need
11 to enter into the legislation that's been being introduced,
12 high-noise level problems, which doesn't seem to be
13 reflected in the bills that are being introduced and talked
14 about by Congress.

15 (AUDIENCE APPLAUDS)

16 MR. LAWRENCE: As you saw from the response of the
17 people here, almost all of us have hearing loss problems
18 and we need to have that looked at by the legislation
19 that's involved. This is a critical problem. It's a
20 problem that almost all of us have.

21 I cannot communicate with my grandson. I cannot
22 communicate with my wife because of the high frequency
23 hearing losses I have. I have to look at them to
24 understand what they're saying to me. This is a problem,
25 and it needs to be in the law that protects us so that we

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1 can get support because the State workers compensation
2 program denies us the support we need. Thank you.

3 MR. CLAIRE: McKay Dunn is up next and Keith Mills
4 is on deck.

5 MR. DUNN: My name is McKay Dunn and I worked at
6 the Test Site for Bandex Field Engineering and prior to
7 that I worked for EG&G. When I went to work at the Test
8 Site I had just gone for my draft physical and stuff to go
9 to Vietnam and then I got a draft deferment. So when I
10 went to the Test Site I was in physically good shape, when
11 I left the Test Site I'd had 38 operations and been under

12 anesthesia 22 times. I had a liver problem which they
13 blamed on a liver due to alcohol. But there's another name
14 to pay for it, so the insurance would pay for it. I don't
15 know if radiation or anything caused that or not.

16 But when I had the liver failure they had to put a
17 shunt tube through my liver, took 80 units of blood. After
18 they got me stable I lost my saliva glands. My gums
19 shrank. I had to have all my teeth pulled out. I had to
20 have a double mammiogram (ph). I had severe scarring of
21 the lungs. I had to have my gallbladder removed. The
22 blood vessels that grew out of the liver, when they put the
23 shunt through it, created like a honeycomb or something
24 around the gallbladder so they had -- they couldn't find a
25 surgeon to operate on it. They finally got a guy from

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1 India that would operate on it and take films of it in case
2 this ever happened to anyone else.

3 I have hearing problems. I have had five melanoma
4 cancers removed. And I have asbestosis -- wherever your
5 bones get brittle. I think most of these came from the
6 Test Site. I sent away and got a copy of what they say I
7 was radiated.

8 I've worked in vehicles where they took me out of

9 the vehicle because the alarms would go off. I've been
10 kicked off the bus. I went through Baneberry when it was
11 hot. I've been left on the Rainier Mesa when Wackenhut
12 swept and missed me, left me on the Mesa when it was shot.
13 I've worked on all these shots and a lot of them show where
14 they vented. So I don't see why I don't show any
15 radiation. Buzzers don't go off, bells don't go off, they
16 don't take your trucks from you. One truck they found
17 where somebody had bolted lead bolts on the back of the
18 truck to make it heavy and they were radiated. So no
19 telling how long we rode around in those trucks.

20 The State, I'm having a lot of problem with the
21 State. I wish somebody from the State disability had been
22 here. They -- I signed up, they put me under -- Harold

23 Chambers, I told him how many people were going to go
24 through this testing process. They said well, why don't
25 you just stay here and we'll put you all in one big team

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1 and it will be a lot easier for us to handle.

2 So I wait months, months, months. They don't get
3 ahold of me. So I got ahold of a guy that works for the
4 State named Jake Medal and he is -- he's one of the good
5 guys. He'll work with you. So he got ahold of them and

6 told them to get it on, start doing something with it.

7 They did. They directly sent me denials.

8 So I filed an appeal. I go to court and I lose

9 the appeal. And now I've got me a lawyer and I've hired a

10 lawyer but I've never heard of anybody beating the State.

11 And I don't know why the State is automatically assuming

12 we're making all this shit up. I mean, if you're in

13 perfect shape when you go out there and you're in lousy

14 shape when you quit, I mean, that's where it happened. And

15 they don't -- it really didn't happen there. It happened

16 someplace else.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Keith Mills is

19 up and Oscar Foger is on deck.

20 MR. MILLS: Good morning. My name is Keith Mills.

21 I worked at the Test Site from 1974 to 1998. I guess

22 whenever you mention Nevada Test Site the first thing that

23 comes to mind is radiation. But there's a lot more hazards

24 out there that we worked under other than radiation such as

25 diesel fumes, dust, welding fumes, silica sand. Now we was

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1 led to believe that through RADSAFE and industrial hygiene

2 we were being protected from high exposure rates. But it

3 seemed with all these protections in place we still got

4 sick.

5 You look around at us. All of our illnesses are

6 basically the same, the respiratory disease, heart disease.

7 We was exposed to second-hand smoke on the buses riding up

8 there. We exposed to all of these diseases and now DOE is

9 saying that they recognize that we were exposed. All we're

10 asking is that compensate us, if you recognizing this,

11 compensate us.

12 I went back up to the Test Site in '98 to work for

13 Bechtel. I worked underground. We worked in a confined

14 space and they had like at least seven welders going per

15 ironworker, fitter, carpenter, and electrician. They said

16 that the levels of exposure were acceptable.

17 When I got laid off from there in April of '98 I
18 filed a claim against Bechtel, they denied it. And then
19 they sent out a memorandum to their workers saying that in
20 the past we didn't recognize respiratory protection but you
21 will adhere to a strict policy now. So I've got all of
22 this documentation. Everybody has all this documentation.
23 All we're asking is that you compensate us and make the
24 quality of our life, if not better, at least a semblance of
25 what it was.

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1 I used to go fishing. I used to go to the races.

2 I can't do that now. If I have an attack, I need to be

3 able to get to a hospital. I'm afraid to go out and enjoy

4 the things that I used to enjoy. All I'm saying,

5 compensate us for our illnesses. Don't jack us around.

6 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you. Oscar Foger and Jon

7 Ridgway, I believe, is on deck.

8 MR. FOGER: Good morning. My name is Oscar Foger.

9 I worked at the Test Site for 1959 to 1994. I was employed

10 at the Test Site as a young man at the age of 19, in good

11 health, was a ex-professional football player. Since

12 during that time I've had blood clots, I have lungs

13 severely scarred, I've got kidney ailments that I'm also

14 seeing a doctor for now.

15 But my purpose of being here today is just like
16 we've been hearing, some people are being compensated for
17 hearing loss, others are being rejected. I've also brought
18 with me today an offer from a law firm from asbestos
19 wanting to make a settlement. My thing on this is still
20 why some are being compensated and some are being contacted
21 and, you know, and others are not.

22 My problem also is as I've stated that going up to
23 the Test Site I never had another job, a physical working
24 job besides playing football. I worked up at the Test Site
25 all my life and still all these problems occurring now

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1 these medical problems, you know, being in good health.

2 And same thing I just would like some kind of compensation

3 for it because it's costing us.

4 But I just thank you for your concern and your

5 care today and hopefully we can go forward with this.

6 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Jon Ridgway and

7 I believe it's Henry Barker or Baker -- I'm not exactly

8 sure -- would be next.

9 MR. RIDGWAY: Good morning. Thank you for hearing

10 us. I'm here as a second generation Test Site worker.

11 What I have to say, my father has already gone through a
12 loss and he had one of nine cancers, seven of them were
13 covered, one was not. Because he had colon cancer he got
14 no compensation whatsoever. He went through -- we had
15 attorneys. He's been through congressional meetings to get
16 this whole thing started to where you people are starting
17 to listen, to say hey, there is a problem and they're
18 opening their eyes.

19 My father died in 1981. The decision on his
20 lawsuit came two years later. My question is what is
21 taking so long? Why? I first went out to -- he was out
22 from '61 to '72. I personally went out from '65 until
23 about '92. Luckily I haven't had the catastrophe of health
24 problems that he has, because he had colon cancer, he had

25 the colostomy bag.

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1 Now this man was a structural engineer and
2 mechanical engineer who was in charge of forward testing
3 for one of the laboratories. When he got sick he sent his
4 medical bills and they said hey, we're not paying for them.
5 So what did my father have to do? He had to start
6 liquidating his assets, and I watched a man go from a very
7 successful career down to almost poverty. As a matter of

8 fact after he died my mother had to live with myself. Now
9 I'm not asking for outrageous numbers. All I'm asking for
10 is compensation to the people that are just -- who need it.

11 Myself, I've only had sinus problems. And I've
12 had polyps removed and I had no air passages whatsoever in
13 any sinus passages. And I assumed it was through the years
14 of -- because I'm a 30-year ironworker welder -- I figured
15 it was from welding, until my doctor told me, he says dust,
16 silica sand, and went right down the list of everything
17 that is exposed to us out at the Test Site.

18 So I will make it very brief and like I say the
19 only thing I ask for is compensation and let's not drag our
20 feet because why should a person die before he can get
21 compensation? Because when they are the sickest is just

22 before they die and that's when they need the compensation.

23 And I thank you for the time.

24 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Henry -- is

25 it -- I'm not exactly sure if it's Barker or Baker. Next,

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1 I hope I'm reading that right, next would be Al O'Donnell.

2 We'll come back to this other one in a few minutes.

3 DR. MICHAELS: Henry is a member of Local 872.

4 Mr. Banks?

5 MR. O'DONNELL: Good morning. I wish to hell this
6 were the seat of Who Wants to Be A Millionaire. But I go
7 all the way back to the '40s with the Manhattan Project is
8 where I started. And I sat here and I listened to messages
9 from Harry Reid and Richard Bryan and Representative
10 Berkley and Gibson and others. I have not heard anything
11 about those who were before the Nevada Test Site. The only
12 one that came close was the young lady or the woman, I
13 should say, from Alaska.

14 My days started with Eniwetok and Bikini. And I
15 might say that I have all my radiation records and there
16 was one particular shot out at Bikini, the Castle shot, and
17 from that shot I knowingly received a very heavy dose of
18 radiation. And as I say my records show that. But that's

19 not what I'm really here for. I sympathize with these
20 ladies and gentlemen here and I too worked at the Nevada
21 Test Site and I had perhaps the distinct honor of opening
22 the Nevada Test Site with Reynold Electric and EG&G. I
23 came out here from Boston on a transfer with my company,
24 EG&G, with three engineers, myself and two others that were
25 transferred out here to open the facilities of EG&G in

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1 support of the Test Site. So I have been involved in every

2 single atmospheric test. I was in charge of all the
3 timing, arming, and firing of every detonation and I want
4 to say that it was a great career.

5 My real reason for being here this morning -- I've
6 had two tumors removed from my head and I'm not going to
7 get into laying claims for compensation. If it comes, it
8 comes; if it doesn't, it doesn't. These others certainly
9 have a claim to their right also. But as I say my real
10 reason is I want the names of my fellow associates, the
11 physicists, the scientists, and the engineers that
12 conducted those operations out there, I want it fully
13 understood that we took every possible means to protect
14 everybody from the fallout, the radiation, because all of
15 my testing was during atmospheric days.

16 And there are names like Drs. Al Graves and Harold
17 York and Jack Clark and Dr. Teller from LRL, Dr. Greer, Dr.
18 Germeshausen and Dr. Edgerton, Bill Ogle, Bob Campbell,
19 Gaylen Felt and a whole list of others. And I want it
20 understood by these people here who have -- I have the
21 greatest sympathy for them. I want it understood that
22 these gentlemen that conducted the tests along with myself
23 and others, we did not deliberately, maliciously, or
24 otherwise make any attempt to expose anybody to the
25 radiation that resulted from the fallout and from ground

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1 zero, et cetera. And if they understand that, then fine.

2 Let them point the finger at the government,
3 whoever the government is, and I hope it's not you two
4 gentlemen, okay. But, nevertheless, take care of the needs
5 of these people and I hope they understand that the names
6 that I have listed here are fine people and all we did was
7 conduct the tests that the federal government asked us to
8 do. Thank you for your time.

9 DR. MICHAELS: I want to thank Mr. O'Donnell and
10 definitely agree with him. I don't think anyone is
11 suggesting that any of the brilliant people who built this
12 facility and who started this whole project had any idea

13 that this might be one of the outcomes. I think people
14 were very dedicated to their work and certainly they were
15 great believers in the progress that splitting the atom
16 would bring to America. And they certainly did their best
17 to help improve the country and I think no one thinks that
18 they were -- that they knowingly exposed anyone to hazards
19 they thought would cause serious illness. So thank you for
20 bringing that to us.

21 MR. CLAIRE: Henry Banks is up if Henry's here.
22 Henry Banks. And next would be Eileen Trone or Trone. Is
23 Henry here? Henry Banks? Okay, Eileen, if you want to go
24 ahead and come up, we'll hold Henry's for a few minutes.
25 And Fred Wilcox Wes will be on deck.

1 MS. TRONE: I'm here to represent my husband, Mac
2 Trone, who on January -- or June 16th of last year passed
3 away from osteosarcoma. He worked for EG&G, started
4 October 24th, 1983. He worked for out in the field for
5 the, after the events, took the radiation count, went to
6 the tunnels and worked in the recovery and at the last
7 three years he was in safety. He retired in May 1st, 1995,
8 and in 1996 his leg broke. We went to the doctors here.
9 We were sent to USC because there were no physicians here

10 in Las Vegas to take care of him and determine what he had.

11 We had the leading doctors at USC and UCLA. It was

12 determined that he had cancer of the bone and that's why

13 his leg broke. He conducted -- had chemotherapy, which no

14 chemotherapy touched the tumors. He then -- an

15 osteosarcoma, we found a medical book which was about ten

16 years old, described his cancer to a tee that it was

17 radiation and this is what's going to develop. It

18 metastasizes to the lungs. There's no way to conduct or to

19 find out it metastasizes until it gets to the lungs. He

20 had surgery removal of both lungs, the tumors in both

21 lungs.

22 A year later, less than a year later it was in his

23 chest cavity and his lungs again. That was February of

24 1999. We knew that there was no hope anymore. We fought

25 this for two and a half years and we finally realized there

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1 was no hope. When he passed away, I hope anybody doesn't

2 have to suffer the death that he suffered.

3 After his death the University of Washington asked

4 me if they could conduct an autopsy on him, which I

5 consented. In that autopsy his tumors were so massive they

6 were back in the lungs, his whole upper body was full of

7 tumors. He had a tumor as long as his esophagus and it was
8 wrapped around his larynx, which he could not talk, and
9 also the one in his brain had enlarged.

10 So from this we had to -- yes, we had insurance.

11 But there's deductibles and because we had to go to
12 California and take care of our meals and room and board,
13 there was -- we were not compensated for anything. This
14 came out of our own funds.

15 My husband enjoyed his job and he was very happy
16 and proud of what he was doing, as for even fighting for
17 his country in Korea. And I believe these, all these men
18 were proud of their jobs and what they were doing. And I
19 know that the government isn't, didn't realize what they
20 were doing to these men and this was a process for these
21 men to put food on their table for their families. Had

22 they known that what the outcome was being, maybe they
23 would have changed the minds of not working there, but then
24 there's that process of making a living.

25 But these people need assistance. And our -- just

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1 as many of these men fought for their countries, I believe
2 these women and men also fought for their country.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Floyd Wilcox

5 and we'll probably take a short break after this.

6 MR. WILCOX: Good morning. My name is Floyd Wes

7 Wilcox, a certified health physicist, 1960, radiation

8 safety specialist, and a certified medical radiation

9 specialist, 1968, by the American Board of Radiology. In

10 1968 I was only one of four people in the nation certified

11 in both categories.

12 My work experience in radiation safety started at

13 Hanford in 1952 where I spent many hours in the back face

14 of the reactor. At that time we were allowed to receive

15 15,000 millirem of exposure a year, subsequently reduced to

16 5000. From there I went to Sandia Corporation where I

17 worked as an atomic and hydrogen bomb surety physicist

18 where we took the heart of the devices apart and ensured

19 their integrity and capability. From there to Idaho, went
20 with Westinghouse. From there I came to Reynolds Electric
21 in 1956 as the first director of radiation safety under
22 Reynolds Electric's contract, prime contract with the AEC.
23 I was there from 1956 to 1963 directing the radiation
24 safety and industrial hygiene program.

25 My last years of experience were in the medical

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1 field, treating cancer patients with both radioactive
2 materials and high energy machines. The last machine was a
3 12 million volt linear accelerator where I wrote all the
4 software for computer planning, treatment planning.

5 I would like to point out that all -- there was
6 mentioned that badges were lost at the Test Site. Under my
7 watch any badge that was lost at the Test Site had a dose
8 reconstructions recorded. And I want you to know that
9 those records are still available.

10 The reason I'm here rather than enjoying a tennis
11 match at Sun City Summerlin is that I feel obligated to
12 attempt to allay your fears and anxieties regarding
13 radiation exposures. I will read you some extracts,
14 abstracts from the major reports of medical follow-ups of
15 people who were exposed to massive exposures when compared

16 to regulatory limits but who have experienced minor

17 physiological problems.

18 The first one I want to read is the abstract by

19 Dr. Voles and his team, Fifty Years of Plutonium Exposure

20 to the Manhattan Project Workers, an Update. In this

21 report it's indicated these people received between 100 to

22 7200 rems of plutonium exposures with an average of 125

23 rems of exposure so they're almost outliving them by

24 factors of two when compared with the 876 unexposed Los

25 Alamos workers of the same period.

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1 The 19 living persons have diseases and physical
2 changes characteristic to male populations with a median
3 age of 72 years, which happens to be my age. Eight of the
4 26 workers have been diagnosed as having one or more
5 cancers which is within the expected range. This
6 underlying cause of death in three of these seven diseased
7 persons was from cancer, namely cancer of prostate, lung,
8 and bone. Mortality from all cancers was not statistically
9 elevated. The effective doses from plutonium in these
10 individuals are compared with current radiation protection
11 guidelines which I indicated are considerably higher than
12 would be allowed today.

13 The other report I want to read is the results of
14 investigations going on since the Bravo shot in the Castle
15 series in the Pacific where the Marshallese were exposed to
16 significant levels of radiation, both inhaled and thyroid
17 results, as well as burns on their skin. Here's a summary
18 from this report which is in two volumes regarding this
19 particular series in the Pacific.

20 "The exposure of the Marshallese and the military
21 personnel showed that fallout from nuclear explosions may
22 have major health effects. In the case of Bravo,
23 short-term effects were nonfatal depression of blood cell
24 production in Marshallese and Americans, skin burns from
25 beta-emitting fissioning products, measurable internal

1 contamination of several fission products. Longer term
2 effects were one case of acute myeloid leukemia.
3 Unexpected serious effects of radioiodine on the thyroid
4 were hypothyroidism in children and adults which has been
5 adequately treated with thyroid extract, cretinism in two
6 boys and thyroid tumor, benign and malignant."

7 Frankly, I must admit that many of our fellow
8 NTSers including myself did receive potential exposures to
9 toxic materials including beryllium. We actually -- took

10 us 24 hours to get a result on a beryllium air sample using
11 the morin fluorescence method. So what we did to evade the
12 potential problem of inhaled beryllium was to put everybody
13 in respiratory protective devices when they entered those
14 areas. We were also exposed to nitrous oxides, caustic
15 solvents, explosive mixtures. I was, myself, blown out of
16 a tunnel in 1958 along with other workers with excessive
17 amount of cesium embedded in our body and breathing dust
18 and the fumes from the test detonation. But you must know
19 that our radiation and toxicology safety personnel did an
20 excellent job and kept exposures within permissible levels
21 as stated by the safety experts and decreed by government
22 regulations.

23 Dr. Harrison mentioned lost badges and I've

24 covered that already.

25 One other thing I'd like you to know is Tom Hayes

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1 and Brandon McKnight have maintained a database on the
2 approximately 2000 employees of REECo in the radiation and
3 toxicology business. And it's interesting to note that of
4 the 80 deaths of those employees who routinely received
5 more exposure than the other workers because they were on
6 the front line most of the time, 16 died from alcohol

7 abuse, auto accidents, plus drug overdose, plus suicide, 21
8 died of heart conditions, 4 from leukemia, and 16 from
9 cancer of various origins. It is interesting to note that
10 based on epidemiological data, the cancer rates were below
11 expected for this chronological mix.

12 We all know that there are many things that we do
13 that are hazardous to our health besides driving in Las
14 Vegas. One which has received much publicity is tobacco
15 use and abuse of alcohol. Add to that eating fatty foods
16 or associating with unsavory characters or investing in the
17 stock market.

18 Thank you for this opportunity to speak and I hope
19 that all will go well for you and may the Lord look after
20 you.

21 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, sir. I'd like to make a
22 comment here in case somebody hasn't -- you know, I'm a
23 citizen here in Nevada and I'm just a volunteer. I was
24 asked to volunteer to moderate this meeting today and I
25 don't work for the government. I kind of wanted you guys

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1 to know that. I wasn't -- I -- they told me that there
2 would be some stories that would be very hard to listen to
3 and tough here and I wasn't as prepared as I thought I

4 would be.

5 But it's a sobering experience. But with that I
6 also apologize to anybody that I'm reading your name wrong
7 or stating it wrong or anything I may have said that's not
8 quite right. With that let's take about a ten-minute
9 break. Thank you.

10 (RECESS)

11 MR. CLAIRE: I believe the next on would be Thomas
12 Anderson would be up. And Billy Joe McCown would be on
13 deck.

14 MR. ANDERSON: I went to work out at the Test Site
15 in 1964, went to work up at the old Area 12 drill shop. I
16 was a machinist up there, machinist all my life. And I'm
17 the only one left. All of my friends have died of cancer.

18 All the machinists and a bunch of the welders and mechanics
19 have died of cancer from up there. I don't know that I was
20 ever exposed to any radiation but the materials I worked
21 with were toxic. I was exposed to a lot of asbestos and I
22 did all the metal spraying for the whole Test Site and most
23 of the stuff I worked with was toxic. And it blew my
24 hearing out. The stuff come out the end of that gun at
25 twice the speed of sound and it was one screaming noise.

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1 We wore ear plugs and we wore little old dinky face masks.

2 I've got 58 percent use of my lungs now. I know
3 that it's from all the mess that we worked with. But I
4 know that engineer was talking a while ago about they did
5 everything in their power to protect us and they didn't do
6 anything deliberately. I think what they did was just
7 through ignorance. They exposed the people to a lot of
8 stuff out there and they didn't know what they was doing.
9 But I can't -- I just don't understand why I'm the only one
10 left alive and the rest of them are all dead. It don't
11 hardly make sense. I guess there's a reason for it. But
12 anyway maybe it will do somebody else some good.

13 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Billy McCown's
14 up next and Margaret Minster on deck.

15 MR. MCCOWN: Well, I want to start off -- let me

16 get up here where -- I want to start off to tell you that

17 I've lost my dad. My dad was the first man on the job for

18 Haddock Engineers in 1951 and he died in '86. He was

19 completely -- all of his lymph nodes were plugged. They

20 couldn't do nothing with him. When they called me I was

21 working at Vandenberg Air Force base. I had to rush over

22 because I'm the oldest and help him. So when I got to the

23 hospital the doctor said he wouldn't live and he said more

24 than six months. Dad says well, he said well, I want give

25 you some -- the doctor told him he wanted to give him some

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1 treatment. He said well, how long will I last after the
2 treatment after I start taking it? He said about six
3 months. He said well, I'll just forget the treatment and
4 take the six months on my own, which he did and he lived
5 six months. But he had shrunk down from five foot seven
6 down to a little -- about four feet. He just absolutely
7 just eated up. He couldn't eat anything, he couldn't hold
8 anything down and it was -- it's pitiful to watch it.

9 But my brother was on the crater shot. He was a
10 general foreman, laborer. And he went down with his crew
11 and pulled out the instruments that was at the bottom of

12 the crater because they had all gone to -- they had gone
13 too far. It had receded into the ground farther than they
14 expected and broke all the ropes. So they had to go down
15 and tie ropes onto them and bring them out. Well, I met
16 him, he was working day shift and I was working night
17 shift. And I was -- I was a teamster oiler and I was --
18 had my truck and I was headed out there. I was also
19 q-cleared for anyplace in the Test Site. And so I saw him
20 coming. He blinked his lights at me and I blinked my
21 lights at him. His men were in the trunk, I mean in the
22 flat bed with racks. They were laying there and like jelly
23 and everything was -- they was throwing up and going at
24 both ends and laying in the back end of that truck and my
25 brother was driving the truck. The truck driver was over

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1 at the -- on the window, throwing up. And it was, I mean,
2 it was really -- it was stinky. And the young fellow with
3 me, he almost got sick.

4 And so I told my brother I says well, I said let
5 me go out and do this work and I'll come back and help you.
6 And he said don't worry about me. He said I'm okay. Well,
7 my brother died in '71. He had four knots on his head size
8 of golf balls and they said he had a heart attack. Well,

9 everybody has a heart attack whenever the blood don't get
10 to you and it's eat up. Don't matter what you had wrong
11 with you. They didn't check him right.

12 Well, and it comes down to me. They say I wasn't
13 even at the Test Site. They have no record of me being at
14 the Test Site and they have no record -- now this is what I
15 get from Bechtel. I get it from all of them, that there is
16 no record of Haddock Engineers working at the Test Site.

17 And then we had -- we also had Nevada Company, the Nevada
18 Company was formed because Haddock Engineers couldn't do --
19 they had to do construction work for this other -- was
20 transportation. So my youngest brother worked in the shop
21 at Mercury. He doesn't have anything wrong with him, thank
22 God.

23 But I have lymphoma cancer, non-Hodgkin's. I've
24 had it since '93. I've been taking chemotherapy the whole
25 time. And I mean I get a few months' reprieve and then I'm

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1 back on it again. I have, my lungs have plaques on them
2 from asbestos and I have, I'm on Coumadin to take care of
3 the blood clots in my lungs and I have a blood clot in my
4 leg which they never have taken another CAT scan to see if
5 it's disappeared.

6 I've had radiation. I've had 54 radiation
7 treatments and well, it's just six years of chemotherapy.
8 I'm still doing good. I'm not giving up. But the thing
9 that I say here, that to tell me that I was not at the Test
10 Site when I saw the bomb go off, the first tower shot, I
11 went to the tower shot. I was up there with the bomb with
12 a scientist from White Sands, New Mexico. And they stand
13 and tell me that I wasn't there.
14 I had -- when I got my radiation was the day they
15 let the bomb off. I was at CP. I was standby. Then they
16 sent me home. I went home and come back at 7:00 o'clock,
17 my regular hours. I picked up my new truck, big nice 6-by
18 with everything on it. You could light up the desert. And
19 got me a helper and we went out there to do this job

20 because they give you a sheet of paper tell you what you

21 going to do.

22 We went out and when we went out we had our

23 dosimeters and our badges on and we went out to the

24 checkpoint right just past CP, went to the -- towards the

25 bomb where ground zero was and so we was about a half a

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1 mile down there and there is a road patrol which is a big

2 grader and also a D8 Cat had to be serviced and those two

3 men that they took off of those were sent to Nellis Air
4 Force base. The general foreman of my shift, his brother
5 was on that Cat and he never got to see his brother again.
6 Now they don't know happened there because I didn't see him
7 anymore but the thing I'm saying is they tell -- I have
8 written and written since 1992 and I cannot get anyone to
9 say that Haddock Engineers was working there.

10 It's in the paper. It was in the papers where
11 they built the Tent City, what they called it, where they
12 boarded up the sides and tents on top and the dust would
13 blow when we'd sleep in the daytime and tear our tops off.
14 And we'd get up and go over to the mess hall until they put
15 our tent back together. These little things like that
16 people don't know about.

17 And so I just want -- what I'm here to say is what
18 these men are telling you is the truth because you can put
19 on weight and you can lose weight, both directions, from
20 this radiation. And so I could live another ten years or I
21 could live another day, which anybody knows anyway, you
22 don't know when you're going to die.

23 But the thing I want to see is for the government
24 to stop telling us all these lies. They say that when they
25 burnt desert rock they wouldn't even let the Nevada Las

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1 Vegas fire department in there to put it off. They had
2 guns across there.

3 I spent 24 hours after I went down there and
4 serviced these units, and I ingested dust and when I came
5 out, the guard -- on my badge, he jumped up there and the
6 light was on me and he says oh, my God, he says, you're
7 contaminated. And I looked at his badge and I say don't
8 feel so bad. I said you are too. And so he went and
9 called them and he said you go up there to CP. So I turned
10 when I went and got to the road, and I turned on the main
11 highway and went to CP and it looked like a bunch of ghosts
12 coming down the road with Geiger counters and I had my
13 windows down and when they went by, those Geiger counters

14 were just -- they were tapping out, just really banging.

15 Well, I never did see the young fellow that was
16 with me. I don't know what happened to him, but they took
17 me out of the truck, took me straight in, stripped me, took
18 all my clothes, everything I had on, burnt them, put me in
19 there where you're a spectate -- they got windows and they
20 got Geiger counters inside taking you. And for 24 hours
21 they washed me. I had to wash and then they'd come back
22 and check out, wash and come back and check out.

23 That went on all day and the whole 24 hours and
24 finally they said well, we're going to send you home.
25 Well, they sent me home, no drivers license, no clothes.

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1 Paper, paper shoes, paper clothes. And I drove out to CP
2 to my car to where I parked my truck and they drove me over
3 to my car and I went home. Well, I stayed two days because
4 I had to go get my drivers license, I had to get clothes to
5 wear, okay.

6 I came back and that night I took off for to go
7 out and do the job. I had my sheet to work and everything
8 and I got halfway to CP and I started -- I was shaking so
9 hard that the young man had to drive me back. I was in a
10 hot tent for three days. First place, when I came back I

11 walked into the great big -- they had a 55-gallon oil drum
12 for heat. So I just walked up there and put my arms around
13 it and to get warm. Well, the back side would be -- I'd
14 just be freezing and turn around and I couldn't get warm.

15 So they called the doctor over. He came with his
16 assistant and he took me out in the field with battle
17 lanterns standing all over out there where equipment was
18 parked. And they had blankets everywhere and that's where
19 people were laying and they give me a shot of something,
20 and they give me the black and white which they used to
21 give in the Navy and that's the last I remember for three
22 days.

23 I know it's been a long time talking.

24 MR. CLAIRE: Yeah, it's -- in fairness to everyone

25 else I would suggest put it all down in writing and send it

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1 in to Dr. Michael's office.

2 MR. MCCOWN: Yeah, I will because, see, they
3 didn't tell you about this. And then these people -- my
4 brother came in to get me out of there and he was met at
5 the gate and told to stay out.

6 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

7 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you. Appreciate it. Margaret,

8 you're up next and Al Fowler up on deck.

9 MS. MINSTER: I'm the widow of James J. Minster
10 who died last month. Jim was a government worker all his
11 life. He was 19 years old when he was inducted into the
12 Korean war and he fought there until late 1954. He had
13 nothing but stomach trouble afterwards and we went to the
14 VA and they couldn't find out what it was, told us to go
15 back to our regular doctor, and so we did that. And it
16 didn't ever find out what it was.

17 In 1962 he went to work for the Test Site after
18 eight years in reserve for the government. And he worked
19 there until 1993 when they put him on disability.

20 In 1969 Jim had Hodgkin's disease and was in stage
21 4. When he was giving the bone marrow deposit at the

22 hospital he asked oh, don't please do that again, please.

23 Is there any way I can get out of getting that done? And

24 the doctor said only if you have an identical twin, and he

25 said but I do. And he said, the doctor said well, you get

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1 on the phone right now after we get through with this and

2 tell your twin to get to the doctor because this is the

3 type of disease that runs in families. Well, it didn't run

4 in the family because his twin never got any of the things

5 that he had.

6 He had, in 1973 he had gallbladder surgery after
7 much stomach trouble and we thought this was probably the
8 problem. In 1983 he had spinal surgery. 1972 he had a
9 lung spot which they decided was a scar tissue. And we had
10 to carry that x-ray around with us all the rest of his life
11 because whenever he went to the doctor because he'd had
12 cancer they wanted to start treating him for lung cancer.
13 In 1983 he had varicose veins of the esophagus and had to
14 have them cauterized. In 1985 he had knee surgery and he
15 had decreased hearing. In 1993 they diagnosed him with
16 hepatitis C, but no one told us it was C at the time. They
17 just said hepatitis so we thought he would get over it.

18 In 1996 he was diagnosed with bladder cancer. In

19 1996 he was also diagnosed with a very rare neurological
20 disease called HTLV-1. And this was done at University of
21 California in LA, UCLA. And they started him on a type of
22 drug which increased his liver damage.

23 In 1997 he was told that he was in last stage
24 liver problems. He was having hepatic seizures where he
25 would lose all reality and would go into comas.

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1 In 1998 they sent him for -- to UCSF for a

2 transplant clinic. When he got there -- he had had what he
3 thought was a hydrocele in his scrotum taken care of here
4 in Las Vegas, didn't give him any antibiotics or anything
5 and he had a terrible infection and they didn't think he
6 was going to live. They immediately operated and didn't do
7 the liver transplant analysis to see if he could do it.

8 Then he was there for 28 days.

9 He had two more operations. He had to have one of
10 his -- I can't even think of it -- something removed and
11 then he had to have a rerouting of the liquid that was
12 going into his scrotum from his liver instead of into his
13 stomach.

14 We got him home and he seemed -- I started to find
15 out how to feed him better and how to take care of him but

16 he kept going in the hospital with what they thought was
17 heart problems, and they thought it was pneumonia. And we
18 decided to go out on our own away from our insurance and to
19 go to Loma Linda and they told us that it was water going
20 into his lungs. But they turned him down on a liver
21 transplant. UCLA turned him down on a liver transplant,
22 UCSF turned him down on liver transplant originally and
23 then the VA turned him down on a liver transplant. Later
24 UCSF said that they would reconsider and the VA said that
25 they would possibly reconsider but we would have to pay the

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1 cost of it, which would be about a quarter of a million

2 dollars which we didn't have.

3 So then he seemed to be really doing better and

4 everybody thought he was doing better. I took him up to

5 see our daughter and he drove around that afternoon and

6 that night he could hardly breathe and I rushed him to the

7 hospital and he died on the way. They revived him and they

8 kept him alive for about six hours and his heart finally

9 gave out so it says 'heart' but I enforced the fact that it

10 had to say 'liver' too.

11 All of these things we trace back when we were

12 looking back on how he had had transfusions in his life

13 that might be questionable, we could only go back to the
14 war when he had hemorrhagic fever, which is another liver
15 disease, in Korea and they had given him a lot of
16 transfusions. And then he had also been injured in the war
17 and they'd given him transfusions.

18 I'd like to say that, a little bit about the Test
19 Site too. When he worked up there he said, you know, they
20 have these hot areas and all they do is have chain link
21 fences around them. We drive by them every day. He said
22 the wind blows, it's going to blow it into all the areas.
23 He said you can't keep it out with a chain link fence. He
24 also worked in, he was a superintendent up there and he
25 worked when he first started in the parts department for

1 automotive parts. He said the guys would take the parts
2 off of these hot cars and bring them in and set them on the
3 counter. And he said he didn't think anything about it
4 until he had had Hodgkin's, and the doctors had said now
5 don't you get any more radiation. Well, then he started
6 telling them they had to put it on the floor after he got
7 back from that.

8 But I was on him all the time to try to get in to
9 Las Vegas, don't work at the Test Site, try to get a job

10 with REECo in Las Vegas. And he asked at least four times
11 that I know of and they would never do it and I thought it
12 was very strange knowing that he had total-body radiation.

13 His radiation was so bad that his skin was pitch
14 black just like charcoal and when you touched it it would
15 just peel off in great big sheets. He had a birthmark on
16 his left cheek that had been there all his life until he
17 had that radiation and once the skin came back it was gone
18 because it had burned deep enough to take it off evidently.

19 I hope that you can do something for these people.
20 It's very sad that they have to live through this. This is
21 30-some years that he -- well, almost all his life that he
22 lived through this.

23 MR. CLAIRE: Okay. Al Fowler is up next. And I

24 have J. S. Laverne. I don't know -- it's REECe, maybe. On

25 Patrick Lane. Am I saying it right? Or -- okay. Well,

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1 then we'll skip that one until we can sort it out here and

2 do Linda Jensen.

3 MR. FOWLER: Well, as you know, you already gave

4 my name. But I worked at the Test Site from '68 until '74.

5 But in '69, well, I worked as a, they call it a bull cook

6 but later on I found out my work really was like a maid.

7 We used to go through cleaning the dormitory and make sure
8 everything was okay. But in 1969 they had a shot that went
9 off, wasn't supposed to go off, and our supervisor forced
10 us to go in. We didn't want to go in but we was forced to
11 go in. That was right after the shot went off and we went
12 in and we went through it and evacuated all the trailer,
13 make sure everybody was out. Well, the 13 guys that was in
14 my crew, we all got radiation on us.

15 And in '96 I had a brain tumor removed but it was
16 a benign one. But behind that, you know, they -- my doctor
17 had to total me out on total disability because there's a
18 lot of other things that happened behind in which I'm still
19 dealing with it now. So I just want to let you know that's
20 what happened to me in 1969 from working at the Test Site

21 and I believe that's caused my tumor. All right.

22 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Al. Linda Jensen. And

23 Carmen Eklund is on deck next.

24 MS. JENSEN: Hi. My name is Linda Jensen. I'm

25 here in behalf of my dad, Jack Hyatt, that passed away

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1 eight years ago. He worked at the Nevada Test Site in the

2 early '60s for 27 years and he was diagnosed with small

3 cell carcinoma and this was back in July of 1991. He lived

4 eight months and then died in February of '92.

5 When he was working at the Nevada Test Site he was
6 in different capacities. He was a mechanic. Mainly he was
7 a crane operator at the, in the forward areas. And I know
8 on -- from hearing stories from my mom -- she couldn't be
9 here today -- but he was a crane operator. And he was
10 working on the cranes that came from Amchitka so him and --
11 we have a picture of him and there's eight of them that was
12 on the crane crew. And they disassembled the crane that
13 came from Amchitka, Alaska. And all I know is they said
14 that it was hot and since of the eight people, four men
15 have died of cancer, and my dad was one of them.

16 I agree with the other people that are here today.

17 He suffered very -- he was only 58 years old when he was

18 diagnosed and so he suffered quite a bit and the eight
19 months that he was trying to survive from cancer he went
20 down to Scrips (ph) in California and they diagnosed it was
21 cancer also. And they did chemotherapy and radiation
22 treatment on him here in Las Vegas and when he died he was
23 probably less than 100 pounds. He suffered greatly.

24 And my mother had to have considerable amount of
25 out-of-pocket expenses for his medical bills. And I just

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1 think that she should be compensated for that, and the rest
2 of the people here. I think the government should be able
3 to compensate these people for what they've gone through
4 and hopefully with the legislation they'll be able to take
5 care of Nevada as well as Paducah and Oakridge.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. CLAIRE: Carmen Eklund. Okay. Jose -- and
8 I'm sorry. I can't pronounce the last name. It starts
9 with B. It's Reynolds Electric. Baca? Okay. Would you
10 want to come up. And next would be Fred Widmier. You're
11 up on deck.

12 MR. BACA: I worked in the Nevada Test Site,
13 American citizen. But the work that started there and they
14 put us in there, sort of a tube, I don't remember what you

15 call it. They made us take off our pants, just our shorts,
16 climb in there to stare in the water. It was full of
17 radiation.

18 Then later we used to take bodies out of Area 12,
19 dead, when we used to -- the tunnels used to blow out. And
20 later we worked in full radiation, I worked in the areas.
21 I worked where they put the cattle and they had cameras to
22 check their milk.

23 I worked in all the areas clear down to Area 51.
24 Plus when I got the radiation at the Nevada Test Site they
25 used to lay me off and I had more seniority. The reason --

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1 they asked me, even my brother said, how come they lay you
2 off when you never been in jail no place and the FBI check
3 you out? And I told him because I think I had too much
4 radiation.

5 But I want to tell you to your own face, once and
6 for all, you had people there doing the work qualified with
7 badges, clear badges. But they were all alcoholics. Even
8 your safety, your safety people supposed to be safety, he
9 was an alcoholic.

10 You don't know what we go through. Plus when the
11 Baneberry blowed out they used us like a guinea pigs. We

12 cleaned the place out. When we cleaned it out they send
13 us, when Baneberry blowed out they send us to forward area
14 clear down from Mercury to the -- to Area 12, it was
15 radiation like sparks, like electricity all over our body.
16 If you want to see radiation, I'll take you over there
17 because I was there. And most all these people were there.
18 They never took care of us.

19 And plus when we went up there the road gave
20 Baneberry about three feet, about a mile deep. And we
21 couldn't go down, just straight up. You know why I got
22 this ones? You know what I got here? Just pure bones.
23 Why? Because we had to put chains on the vehicles to make
24 it up there clear up to 20 because they claim that it was
25 espionage. It wasn't espionage. Why? They had a

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1 helicopter. They got our pictures because I can prove it
2 to you.

3 But at least when we got out of there we went to
4 CP, park the truck, they told us they didn't care about us,
5 washed the trucks. And this the worst, they used -- they
6 say, get this son of bitch truck and wash them off. You
7 full of radiation, you and the trucks.

8 So what they did later, they laid me off when I

9 had more seniority. If you want the seniority list, let's
10 talk one on one. Let's at least go find it. I used to
11 burn, years ago back in '60s, the film badges for some of
12 these people in Mercury. That's right.

13 And then another thing too, in Mercury, if you
14 want to see radiation, if you want to see Las Vegas blown
15 out, you know who's going to do it? Scientists from Russia
16 because we had them over there, and they were better
17 protected than us. That's what it was going on.

18 Plus when they checked us out with the radiation
19 in Mercury, I think it was Mercury, they had green, green,
20 yellow, green, yellow, and red. And they had RADSAFE like
21 here with buttons on the bottom here so we couldn't see
22 them. And they shot, they put green, it was perfect. Put

23 yellow, it was perfect. And I cut this fellow and some of
24 us. They turned it down and said this is the place where
25 he said, you hotter than a fucking bastard, and this is

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1 what happened. And a year later we went up there for
2 cleanup and they used us like a guinea pig.
3 But I want to tell you the truth, the God's truth
4 that the food that these people eat, they were so cheap,
5 Reynolds Electric with the government, they feed those

6 people with the food that were full of radiation, the
7 plates, everything, was there.

8 We did all the cleanup but at the time we didn't
9 clean the mess hall but we were the first ones for
10 everything. I work with the cattle there. They had, I
11 think, about a half a million dollar cattle place,
12 everything. I know what I'm talking about. You ought to
13 see what I go through. I pass out. When I pass out I know
14 it's coming.

15 It's time to take care of us. The nation, when
16 they went to astronaut, they did it because of us. They
17 did research for with us. Do something for us for a
18 change, please. Look at the American flag. You don't care
19 about these people. You don't care. You only care
20 about -- like I told you, when you do something, do it the

21 right way. No sense on me talking here because they had
22 alcoholics and all executives -- no, not all of them, some
23 of them.

24 Thank you for -- appreciate it.

25 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Fred, you're up

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1 next. And Donald Britton is on deck.

2 MR. WIDMIER: Good afternoon.

3 DR. MICHAELS: Good afternoon. Thanks for your
4 patience.

5 MR. WIDMIER: My name's Fred Widmier. My
6 employment was in the tunnel, underground in Area 12, Area
7 15. These people talk about their other problems. We had
8 radiation in the tunnels when you had a shot for reentry.

9 I'd like to ask you a question. When we went back
10 in on reentry, as long as the lunchrooms read under 50 MRS
11 we could set our lunch in there in brown paper bags or our
12 lunch pail and leave them set for four hours and then go
13 back at lunchtime and sit down and eat. Now would you like
14 to do that? You don't have to answer it. I know what you
15 would say.

16 Our reentries which consisted of going back in to
17 ground zero or as close to ground zero as you could get,

18 four, five, six, people could be working side by side.

19 RADSAFE give you dosimeters. We had a man speak a minute

20 ago that said that he was real efficient on that. No

21 dosimeters would read the same. Maybe yours would read 50

22 MRs, maybe the guy next to you would read 100 MRs, maybe

23 another one would read 200. It never read the same. When

24 you went back to RADSAFE they write something on a piece of

25 paper.

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1 You say you've got all of our radiation dosages.

2 I don't believe that you have them all correct. You may
3 have some but you don't have them correct.

4 I didn't work down in the Flats. That was
5 different. But we had a lot of underground people here
6 this morning. Their hearing, most everyone that worked in
7 underground had a hearing loss. The state industrial
8 commission, some of them they would recognize them, some of
9 them they didn't. I think that you people should get
10 together, my idea of it is because some of them is okayed,
11 some of them is not.

12 Now getting to the people that do the hearing aids
13 here in town but then they find out they are industrial
14 commission, I think they're charged a prohibitive price for

15 a hearing aid. And I think you should have one person that
16 will check the hearing and give you the required prescribed
17 hearing aid to help you.

18 Then you people talk radiation only does cancer,
19 causes cancer. Maybe it does. But does it ever cause
20 anything else? I have noticed that a lot of our people
21 that worked underground that was exposed to radiation and
22 that, everybody is complaining about arthritis and stiff
23 joints and that now. Does radiation have something to do
24 with that? You go to your doctor, you ask him, do you know
25 what answers you get? That comes with old age. Man,

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1 there's got to be something that will cause it. And why
2 does so many of our people that was underground and exposed
3 to radiation is showing up with arthritis, bad joints. I
4 have it myself. Other people that has worked underground
5 have arthritis. We worked in that radiation.

6 You take your clothes home on the weekend. Your
7 wife, your kids wash them, are around them. What kind of
8 radiation did they get? You put on a pair of coveralls out
9 there, you put on a pair of rubber booties for your shoes,
10 that don't stop it all. It still goes through that cloth.
11 It still gets on you.

12 I was fortunate enough I got so much radiation out
13 there at one time in '61 that I had to sign a piece of
14 paper because they had messed up my film badges and that
15 and give them to a cook in Mercury that come up with three
16 and a half Rs, that I wouldn't sue anybody because they had
17 messed it up. And they told me we'll send you to another
18 tunnel where it's clean. I go up there, they got tritium
19 or whatever you want to call it in there. We worked in it.
20 They come up with this -- they had it. You know
21 what they done to us, for us? They says drink a six-pack
22 of beer a day. They even bought it for us. That was great
23 for the miners because, hell, everybody liked to drink beer
24 and they bought it for us. But they never made a checkup
25 on us because they said everything would settle to your

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1 kidneys. They never, never made a checkup to see if
2 anything ever settled to our kidneys, only to urinate in a
3 bottle and turn it in to them every time you went. That's
4 the only checking they done.

5 Now then, answer my question that I asked you
6 about the paper bag with the lunch.

7 MR. CLAIRE: Donald Britton. Is Donald here?

8 Bernie Garcia. Thank you very much. Bernie Garcia. Kelly

9 Ann -- and I'm not going to try that last name, on Del Ray,
10 I believe, 6701 Del Ray. How many people are still waiting
11 to speak? If you'll -- I'll go through the list of your
12 name's on here, hopefully. Anabelle Bensez, am I
13 pronouncing that right? Ernest Mascareñas, you are up.
14 Don Reed, I believe, will be on deck.

15 MR. MASCAREÑAS: I'm Pete Mascareñas. And I
16 worked out there and I was a part of in Area 12 and when I
17 was out there I was exposed, there's a crater that's called
18 Sedan crater. And what happened with that was is in a
19 couple of hours time I started to rash and they instantly
20 took me to Mercury. They gave me a white shower, basically
21 took my clothes. And I tried to ask for, you know,
22 compensation, see what was going on. I've been denied

23 that.

24 And as for that, I lost a brother out there also.

25 My brother, Rich, was killed out in tunnels. And it was

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1 due to unsafe work, hazardous conditions. And as to that,

2 my mother never got compensated or that, as in a wrongful

3 suit. She never pursued it because of the fact that just

4 losing a son was enough. That was enough just to not make

5 her fight anymore about it because the more she fought the

6 more hurt.

7 And my father is here. He worked out there. He
8 has lung spots in his lungs also. And, you know, I hear
9 all these people talking about what's going on and I'm
10 young and I don't want to be in the position one of these
11 days. I have three daughters and I don't need them to be
12 sitting up here like some of these kids are talking about
13 their fathers one of these days. You know, it's just
14 something that's got to be done for everybody, not for just
15 the sole purpose of one person but for everyone.

16 And that's basically all I have to say. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you. Don Reed, I believe. I'm
19 sorry. Don Reed. 3510 East Trop, in case I'm saying it

20 wrong.

21 Wallace Morgan.

22 Sandy Cote. Amos Brown will be on deck.

23 MS. COTE: I'm speaking on behalf of my dad who

24 passed away ten years ago from cancer. He worked at the

25 Test Site from '62 to '84 and was exposed to radiation

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1 twice. I'm not going to go into detail. I just -- me and

2 my mom have pursued this from day 1 since he passed away.

3 And in that time his two children, including me, have had
4 our own children that he will never see, which is very
5 hard. I remember growing up when people would ask or
6 friends would ask what my dad used to do. I was very proud
7 to say that he worked at the Test Site. If I could only
8 take those words back now because I thought it was such a
9 big deal back then. But now like my children will never
10 know their grandfather. It's just been very hard.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Mr. Brown is
13 next and Samuel Stuart would be on deck.

14 MR. BROWN: My name is Ed Brown and I'm here on
15 behalf of my father. He was member of Local 525 here in
16 Las Vegas, plumber's union. My father worked at the Test

17 Site periodically from 1954 through 1969 and January 7th
18 this year my father passed away. He had a lot of skin
19 cancers on his arms, his face, his ears, his nose that had
20 to be removed. And they put it off as exposure to sun. My
21 father never worked without a long-sleeved shirt on so he
22 wasn't exposed to no sun.

23 He had prostate cancer. It went from his, into
24 his hips, his spine, his ribs. His kidneys shut down and
25 he lived a day and a half after his kidneys shut down. And

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1 I would like that my mother be compensated in some way for
2 this. A lot of these people that's been here today, they
3 have same type of things that's happened to them, and I
4 think the government should compensate the people for it.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Samuel Stuart.
7 George Sieg, S-i-e-g, I believe. Steve Bova. John
8 Campbell.

9 Steve, okay.

10 John Campbell. Dr. Paz, you're on deck.

11 MR. BOVA: Hello. My name is Steven Bova. I
12 worked at the tunnels mainly '84, '85 and then Mercury in
13 '87. Mainly I worked the tunnels but worked in most areas

14 ending up in Area 5 first time I was there. I thought it
15 was one of the worst because men with Geiger counters would
16 screen all the waste coming in and tell workers to stay
17 away from that side of the 55-gallon drum. It's a little
18 bit hot because their Geiger would go.

19 But from seeing old friends here today, radiation
20 is just one of many substances we workers were exposed to
21 out there. Beings I never had to fight for my country -- I
22 happened to be born in '59, one of years where we didn't
23 have to even sign up for a draft, it was gone -- I thought,
24 I was pretty proud to work for the Test Site to do my part
25 beings I couldn't -- I didn't fight for the country, I

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1 could at least help the defenses of the country. Now if I
2 would have joined the Army and been a veteran and was
3 exposed to some of these chemicals that, maybe not the same
4 but just as dangerous, the veterans are covered. They have
5 their VA hospitals, they have all kind of compensation for
6 them. But how come us workers who did the same type of
7 work for our country are not compensated same as the
8 military?

9 As I was out there at the tunnels I've seen
10 hundreds of thousands, if not million of dollars of waste.

11 Like when the budget was coming up and if there was any
12 money left in the budget we were sent out to do it again,
13 tear it all apart, build it again. We don't want any money
14 left in our budget. If they have these billions of dollars
15 to waste like that, don't they have enough money to
16 compensate us workers who are injured?

17 I, myself, have no problems I know of but -- and
18 actually I'm in town on a funeral. I don't even live here
19 no more, but since I've heard about this in the paper and
20 talked to my friends, I'm going to spend my own money and
21 come back March 3rd for a screening, and I'm just hoping
22 I'm not wasting my money. I truly hope that the free
23 screening will help the Nevada Test Site workers and not be
24 used just for research only, not a 1-800-guinea pig number.

25 Because one of the question and answers on the pamphlet I

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1 have is what if the doctors thinks I have a health problem

2 which may be related to my work at the NTS? The answer

3 they give is you may be eligible. Well, maybe is going to

4 cut it. We should be eligible. And that's all I have to

5 say. Thank you.

6 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Mike Couch

7 would be on deck.

8 DR. PAZ: My name is Dr. Jacop Paz. I worked for
9 the Nevada Test Site in various capacity in industrial
10 hygiene. I would like to make several comments. First of
11 all I do thinks that money should be appropriate
12 specifically to the Nevada Test Site to establish a
13 research institute who would study the various effect. I
14 don't think that a comment that we are guinea pig is
15 correct. I think the government responsibility is to
16 investigate, to prevent such happening and see what's
17 happened. In my professional opinion, I can say that the
18 exposure is very much depends when do you work, what year.
19 Second, I have conducted very extensive survey,
20 short term, long term which including physical and chemical
21 exposure on just -- I don't know if there are -- my

22 material is classified or unclassified. I don't know. I
23 cannot go into, I just can state it that the exposure level
24 was varied from day to day, from occupation to occupation.
25 Part of the exposure and illness of people are, should be

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1 blamed largely on management; second, if some of the worker
2 I have come in contact and I ask him, he was working near
3 the marker and there is silica dust and I ask him why don't
4 you wear a respirator? And I was insulted I have to go to

5 his supervisor. It should be change in attitude. The

6 exposure has been varied.

7 And last, we don't have at the present time any

8 data to show the interaction between irradiation and toxic

9 chemical in the environment. More research is needed. I

10 have made this comments several times in the civil --

11 what's the name? CAB team and try to get some money for

12 research. Should come from the Nevada -- from the DOE

13 money and to do it.

14 And finally that the research institute should be

15 at the Nevada Test Site. It should included the worker,

16 academia, and small business, and other people who work

17 there who can largely can contribute.

18 And my comment is finally for the people who drank

19 the beer is the removal of the trachea potentially has been
20 this.

21 That's all. Thank you.

22 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you, Dr. Paz. Mike, you're up.

23 And Anthony Delgado would be on deck. If Anthony's not
24 here, Cecilia Lambeth.

25 MR. COUCH: My name's Mike Couch and I first came

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1 to Las Vegas in 1978 on a wrestling scholarship to UNLV and

2 shortly after that I left UNLV and got into the ironworkers

3 and I worked right next to Wayne Cates in Area 12 and in

4 Area 2 with him for two, three years. And my question is

5 what do I have to look forward to in the future as far as

6 silica dust or any of that? Or how will I go -- will I

7 have to be tripped up with all these hurdles and medical

8 problems and denials and this and that? And will my kids,

9 if in fact I was exposed to the same levels that he was --

10 and that's my main concern is what the younger people --

11 I've heard all these horror stories from the older guys and

12 I'm just dreading the day that something like that's going

13 to happen to me. And I'm just curious as to how, what is

14 going to happen to us.

15 DR. MICHAELS: Well, I think -- you know, I

16 obviously don't know your particular case but in terms of
17 silica disease, I think medical examination through the
18 Boston University program is very appropriate. Hopefully
19 right now there's no longer a significant exposure to
20 silica, and if there is we should do something about it.
21 But if there isn't, you should have some medical monitoring
22 to make sure you don't get sick. Fortunately with silica
23 we don't worry about the next generation, and again
24 hopefully if we get this program through, if you do get
25 sick in the future we'll have a program to get you some

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1 compensation. But --

2 MR. COUCH: Is that for any radiation-causing

3 disease that might --

4 DR. MICHAELS: Well, we're hope -- well, we're

5 still trying to work out what the program is. But that's

6 certainly what we're here to listen to you, to hear your

7 concerns, to make sure we address them.

8 MR. COUCH: Well, that basically was my main

9 concern --

10 DR. MICHAELS: Well, I appreciate that.

11 MR. COUCH: -- for me and the younger guys, you

12 know, that were out there. Because, like I said, I was

13 working right next to Wayne. He was one of my best friends
14 and he was as healthy as they come, you know, and now he's
15 stricken where he's probably not going to live another
16 couple years.

17 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Anthony,
18 you're up, and Cecilia Lambeth would be on deck. If
19 Cecilia is not here, maybe James McDonald.

20 MR. DELGADO: My name is Anthony Delgado. I'm a
21 30-year army veteran. Thirty-seven years ago between April
22 and September of 1963 I worked at the Mercury Test Site,
23 then operated by the Atomic Energy Commission as an army
24 photographer. I was there for six months. The experience
25 was varied because as an army photographer I was required

1 to go to different, numerous craters to photograph craters,
2 photograph shafts in tunnels, photograph mangled buildings,
3 and also photograph -- I don't remember exactly whether
4 it's dropped or one underground explosion near ground zero.
5 I photographed the washing of vehicles and burial of
6 vehicles. I photographed dissections of animals that were
7 used in some of the testing. My only uniform was my army
8 uniform and my camera. The explanation from the
9 radiologist that they had different forms of masking to go

10 for personnel is not true.

11 I asked for, starting in 1996, for records of my
12 radiation history. I received from Department of the Army
13 and Department of Energy that there was no record of any
14 history of radiation and this is true. The reason for that
15 is because I did not have a badge, okay, so there are many
16 people that were under similar situations and
17 circumstances.

18 I was 23 years old. I did what I was told. I was
19 a specialist 4. I didn't know anything about radiation or
20 its effects. We were required and on various occasions I
21 was asked along with several other military personnel to go
22 both inside and outside the Test Site with Geiger counters.
23 We would report them by either walkie-talkie or through

24 radios from our trucks. And again when the radiation
25 levels were high we would report that this is a hot area.

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1 Does that mean that I was not radiated? And what about the
2 other people that have done similar work?

3 There was one time, and I just for whatever it's
4 worth, after photographing a particular crater I was
5 walking back to my truck. It was in July and it was
6 snowing. There was no cloud in the sky. The temperatures

7 were well into the 100s and it was snowing. It raised the
8 hair on my back and I drove back as fast as I could because
9 I couldn't understand it. I've never said that before but
10 it's something that -- maybe it's a phenomenon. Maybe it's
11 something to do with whatever's going on out there.

12 I was sent two sets of maps to indicate where
13 within the Test Site that I performed my functions. I
14 cannot tell you. It was 37 years ago. As an army
15 photographer I was directed sometimes, sometimes I
16 accompanied a civilian. The civilians sometimes wore white
17 hoods, white uniforms, white booties; I had my army
18 uniform.

19 And the reason I bring this up is because in 1996
20 I had an operation, a spine operation in March because I

21 could not stand up, I could not sit down, I could not lay
22 down. Such extreme pain. And come to find out that I had
23 neurofibromas and several of the neurofibromas were
24 intertwined in my spine, preventing me from any type of
25 flexibility. So I used to crawl to the bathroom. I used

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1 to crawl to the kitchen table to feed myself and to the
2 refrigerator.

3 But Dr. Benjamin Venger who diagnosed me has

4 indicated that in his professional opinion the
5 neurofibromas, which incidently are not compensatable under
6 the regulations that presently exist under Department of
7 Energy or the Veterans Administration, were caused by
8 radiation. His father was also a neurosurgeon at the
9 Nevada Test Site and when he left to go into private
10 practice, many of the workers at the Test Site followed him
11 into private practice. So Dr. Benjamin Venger,
12 neurosurgeon, is, I think, intimately familiar with it.

13 When I asked for compensation or consideration for
14 compensation from the Veterans Administration as a veteran,
15 they denied that I had been there. When I requested from
16 Department of Army for orders, they had no record of my
17 having served at the Nevada Test Site. Again obviously I

18 did not wake up from a dream and say this. But I'm sure
19 that there are many circumstances where people have worked
20 that are not recorded and they have no history. But that
21 does not mean that they did not work there. We did not
22 dream this event, these circumstances. So on behalf of all
23 the people that are here and all the veterans I would like
24 the Department of Energy to do something that will at least
25 alleviate some of the pain and suffering that we have.

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1 Thank you.

2 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you. Thank you very much. Is

3 Cecilia here? Actually I don't -- there's only three or

4 four I've got down. James McDonald. Terry Judd, I

5 believe. Is Terry here?

6 DR. MICHAELS: Here he is.

7 MR. CLAIRE: Okay. Alex Owens would be next.

8 Phillip Spencer or Michael -- okay.

9 MR. JUDD: Good morning, gentlemen. My name's

10 Terry Judd. I worked at the Nevada Test Site from 1969 to

11 1998, which is 29 and a half years.

12 One of my earliest experiences out there was

13 during a little thing they called Baneberry. And we were

14 above Area 2 at the time and they sent us down towards CP

15 and then back up and then we had to come back down again,

16 which sent us right through the middle of the cloud. But

17 what was strange about the whole thing like that was right

18 after that our cafeteria itself was actually disposed of

19 because they said it was too contaminated we had -- our

20 yard was full of materials and stuff and basically we had

21 to wear booties and go back into our yard again and we had

22 RADSAFE monitors which were checking everything out that we

23 got. And the funny thing is you'll have one stack here and

24 another stack here. That one's hot, that one isn't. That

25 never made any sense to me.

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1 But in the whole time we were out there and being
2 in different places and different areas and everything, it
3 was always surprising to me every time I got my dosimeter,
4 the thing through the mail or even at work, it said we
5 never been any place and it's like -- it just seemed very,
6 very odd.

7 And I thought it was some of the greatest things
8 and some of the funniest things we ever went through was
9 like we were always told that we'd go through, down to a
10 place to pull some stuff out like that and there'd be an
11 opening between some yellow tape like that. And that

12 yellow tape was supposed to hold all the radiation into

13 that area, which didn't make any sense to me at all. I

14 mean, it must be good yellow tape.

15 But as far as the rest of it goes, the people I

16 started out with in Area 12, I know only one person I

17 originally started out with is still alive. All the rest

18 are dead. Now I can't tell you that it was all caused by

19 radiation but it seems mighty strange that you got -- work

20 with 18 people and 16 of them are gone. And there's been

21 many friends in many different areas that I have worked

22 with, dealt with, and there is a huge percentage of them

23 are not alive today. And that's all I have to say.

24 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

25 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. I lost track

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1 here of the last two. Alex -- is that -- or Michael?

2 Michael? Did I -- Michael Rollins. Oh, Phillip Spencer,

3 you're up. And the other two parties, Alex Owens and

4 Michael Rollins, if they're here, they're on deck after

5 this.

6 MR. SPENCER: Good afternoon. My name is Phillip

7 Spencer. I went to the Test Site first time in 1961 but I

8 didn't stay too long then, then I went back in '88. I've

9 been a miner since 1952 around the country. And as far as

10 I know I haven't got too much problems except my ears and

11 now they tell me I got asbestos in my lungs. But you go

12 down here to a doctor and tell him, you know, what's you've

13 been told and what not and they don't want to touch it. So

14 where do we go to get it touched? That is my one -- one of

15 my questions, you know. Where do I go to get it touched?

16 The specialist that I went down to told me, he said I guess

17 you know your insurance company won't pay for this. I said

18 I guess you know if they don't you're in deep trouble

19 because I'm not going to pay for it. So, you know this,

20 that these guys -- that basically these miners who worked

21 out there at the Test Site and the people that worked

22 underground, they've offered to compensate these people

23 around the country for these other places but they've never

24 said a word about these poor old miners.

25 Well, let me tell you something. These miners

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1 went through total, total, total hell. And if DOE and the

2 people out there would have told them back in the old days,

3 walk through that 50-gallon drum or 20,000-gallon drum of

4 radiation, that's what they'd have done. And truthfully

5 they used -- as they said, they used us for guinea pigs.

6 They can say what they want to because -- and I truthfully
7 believe that DOE in them days didn't know a bit more about
8 radiation than we did. So these people deserve to be
9 compensated, and I would like to know where do I go for
10 this radiation or for this asbestos.

11 And they talk about protection, you know. They
12 did in later years put us in protection. But this job out
13 here at Yucca Mountain, whenever Key Witt was out there we
14 went through some aerolite. Well, after we got nearly all
15 the way through it they decided they'd put us in
16 respirators. Big help, you know, big help. And that is a
17 DOE job is the reason I brought it up. So what I'm saying,
18 I guess, is why do you shut the gates after the old horse
19 has got out? Let's shut the gate before the horse gets out

20 from now on. This is a great country. And it needs to be

21 shut before the horse gets out.

22 It's like my hearing problem. I've got, so they

23 tell me, 17, 18 percent hearing loss. Mister, I got 50,

24 60, 70 percent but after fighting them for years and going

25 to five and six different doctors I just got tired of them

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1 and said pay them -- well, pay me what you want to. You

2 know, pay me what you want to. And so why do these people

3 that you know that's worked at the Test Site all their
4 life, why do they have to keep appealing this, keep
5 appealing this, keep appealing this to get these people to
6 accept these cases?

7 Now whenever I finally settle mine, this insurance
8 company of Nevada, the old gal had got to tell me, she
9 said, you know, you're lucky. Says we don't compensate
10 people no more for hearing loss. We give them hearing
11 aids, which they gave me two of them, over \$1300 a piece.
12 I appreciate it. But lessen I'm looking dead at you, half
13 the time I can't understand what you're saying. So have I
14 got 17 or 18 percent hearing loss? No, no.

15 So basically what I'm saying to you -- and you're
16 the man that can do it -- instead of turning these people

17 down and turning them down and turning them down, hey,
18 let's get on the ball and accept. I've -- they turned my
19 case down five times and I also went to five different
20 doctors and told them the same thing. This is due to work.
21 And Nevada state law, which I understand DOE don't give a
22 damn or nothing like that, but Nevada state law states the
23 last endurer, which is the last contractor you worked for,
24 is responsible for all of your hearing loss, all of it.
25 Well, somehow they rigadood REECo in on it, which I'm

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1 proud they did. It didn't make me no difference. That was
2 just one for poor old Key Witt that they got up on.

3 But these guys that got hearing loss, you've got
4 to keep appealing this because if you don't, they're going
5 to turn you down, turn you down, turn you down.

6 So, you know, you're the guy that can do something
7 about this. Why don't you?

8 DR. MICHAELS: That's what I'm trying to do.

9 MR. SPENCER: Okay. I think you are. And I think
10 for one time in my life, I believe DOE is trying to do
11 something.

12 DR. MICHAELS: We're trying.

13 MR. SPENCER: And they probably did a hell of a

14 lot more than what they did when they was shooting at me

15 over in Korea. So thank you very much.

16 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Is it Michael

17 Rollins? And Alex Owens, if he's here, he would be next.

18 MR. ROLLINS: Hello, Dr. Michaels.

19 DR. MICHAELS: How are you?

20 MR. ROLLINS: I hope you are the calvary. I last

21 talked to Dr. Pepper when he left and said you go to

22 Washington and send the cavalry out here. I was the fellow

23 that was lucky enough to show him around the Test Site when

24 he arrived. I'm sitting here listening to these stories,

25 has just been amazing to me because I'm trying to figure

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1 out how to sort my story out so it makes some sense to you.

2 And I hope I can do that in a short amount of time.

3 I was born in 1953 and my father and my

4 grandfather were miners. And when I was just a child they

5 worked for Charlie Stein in the uranium mines in Moab, Utah

6 area. And when I was a little boy we grew up in a little

7 trailer park that is still in the same place today. I can

8 show you where it is. It's right across the street from

9 the mill where they milled the uranium. I know you

10 probably are aware of that whole situation because of Dr.

11 Pepper's work.

12 And before that I lived up at the mine itself,
13 right there where we were mining it. We rode the ore
14 trucks to school, down the mountain to school as it came
15 up. As life would have it, those mines closed, that
16 industry rolled over. A lot of guys were out of work and a
17 lot of them found their way out here in Nevada working at
18 the Test Site as miners, and my family was one of those.
19 And so we lived first in Beatty and then over in the Death
20 Valley region where I finished out my high school education
21 and so forth.

22 And during those years when those nuclear weapons
23 would be fired, we'd stand up on the side of the hill out
24 there, all the kids would gather around and watch the dang

25 things go off and watch the flash and watch the mushroom

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1 and thought it was really something if we could see it that

2 close up.

3 So having said that I want you to know that this

4 has had a bigger impact on just these Nevada Test Site

5 workers, it's had an impact on this entire region, the

6 entire -- this fellow just talked about Nevada law perhaps

7 not being considered. It's even more important than that.

8 County law is not being very well considered. There
9 probably aren't too many people that realize that that
10 actually sits in the middle of a county called Nye County
11 that hardly has anything at all. They're scrapping trying
12 to figure where they're even going to build a school. And
13 this complex has sent billions of dollars through it
14 without any exchange at all for the people that lived
15 there, consideration for their welfare, the environment,
16 and so on and so on and so on. And this is going be
17 ongoing, impacting for a long time. I don't want to dwell
18 there.

19 I do want to tell you that much to my surprise I
20 wound up working at the Test Site myself from, gosh, I
21 think it was about 1990 to about 19 -- well, until '97, I

22 think it was. One of the worst things that the DOE ever
23 did was to change that contract, by the way, and let
24 Bechtel come and take it over because they didn't have a
25 clue about what they were doing. None of those men had any

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1 idea about the historical values or any of the nature or
2 the locations or anything else that were out there and
3 that's been a big mistake and it remains one.
4 I was exposed at one time through a series of

5 stupid mistakes that happened because when they were going

6 through a reclamation process, taking out the old tanks,

7 trying to meet law, and reclaim some of the old tanks,

8 underground storage tanks that were under the rec

9 requirements. And what we did is we devised a method to

10 cut the ends of the tanks off by using an explosive method.

11 It was quick and inexpensive and then they'd be pumped out,

12 inert gas and so forth. And then we could put them in

13 landfill is all I'm trying to say, we could crush them and

14 put them in landfill to dispose of them. Most of them were

15 diesel fuel and water tanks and that sort of thing. And so

16 generally speaking you didn't have too much of a problem

17 with what the tanks contained. My role in that was to

18 oversee some of the blasting that happened and in the

19 early-going we were involved in the design of this whole

20 concept of trying to dispose of these things.

21 There were some areas up there at the Test Site

22 that tanks were used to hold plutonium, tritium, so on and

23 so forth, runoff from some of the experimental areas

24 between Area 6 and Area 25. And there were some errors

25 made when they pulled some of those tanks. They never were

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1 checked before they were taken to the disposal area. And

2 then when the blast took place, that wasn't -- the blast
3 effect in and of itself was not effective. It didn't blow
4 the end of the tank off completely and so we had to go back
5 in. The crew went back in and reloaded it, recharged it,
6 and shot it.

7 When it was shot, much to everybody's surprise
8 there was a rattlesnake found when they shot several of
9 these tanks at one time and so they were over horsing
10 around with this rattlesnake with a stick. And I went over
11 and told them to stop it so they wouldn't get hurt.

12 In the meantime everybody was driving around as it
13 shot a heavier load the second time, everything that was in
14 that tank was scattered all over and it was a real heavy,
15 gooey, pasty stuff. And it was several days later that

16 monitors came and found me and told me that we'd been
17 exposed to a high level of -- these tanks that were taken
18 out of that experimental area from the '50s were full of
19 this stuff and that we never should have -- that those
20 tanks should have been included in the disposal process and
21 that there was an error made.

22 And by that time, of course, I had cleaned my
23 vehicle, I had in fact polished my boots, cleaned and
24 polished my boots, several days had passed. Housekeeping
25 had come through my office and cleaned it. There was no --

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1 they couldn't get any indicators on their little pancake

2 devices. And that was about all.

3 If it weren't for the position in the

4 organizational chart that I happened to hold at the time,

5 that probably would have been all that there ever was of

6 it. I had to push real hard to get anybody to look into

7 this issue. Did anybody notify any of the laborers that

8 were involved in that? They hadn't. I went down and did

9 that myself. And finally I did in fact get an

10 investigation launched and there was a round table

11 discussion and a draft report, which is a favored way -- if

12 you work in DOE you probably know this process -- it's a

13 nice way of not ever getting a report out. You just send a
14 draft copy out. It's never finalized. It's never sent
15 anywhere. There was at least a draft report of this
16 incident and the effects that it probably had. And they
17 were pretty -- this exposure was very heavy to everybody
18 involved. And that did happen to me.

19 I pursued it myself medically to go through the
20 processes to see if -- what exposures I had. But by the
21 time I found out about it and by the time I got that
22 attention, there wasn't any evidence there that they could
23 find, but they were talking over my head anyway. I was
24 talking to physicists that were telling me that the effects
25 I may see may come at a later time in life. They just

1 can't be certain. They don't know.

2 So at this juncture, halfway through my life, I
3 don't know what to expect for the rest of my life. I don't
4 know what these effects are going to be on my life, and
5 it's not just me, it's lots of people.

6 And I'm real glad to see you're here and I hope
7 you are the calvary. If this is just a political -- the
8 people in the lobby are saying that you're only here to
9 answer political -- this is a political game that's being

10 played. And I want you and your supervisors to know that
11 you can't do that to the state of Nevada because, you know,
12 these fellows out here cowboy up, they will not take it.
13 You'll hear from them loud and clear. You got to be real
14 about what you're doing here today.

15 Thank you.

16 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you. I appreciate that.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Is Alex Owen

19 here? Okay. Have we missed anybody? Is there anybody

20 that we've missed in the audience? Got a late one, okay.

21 Val Edgel.

22 MR. EDGEL: Gentlemen, thank you for this

23 consideration. I worked in the 15 shaft. And I'd only

24 been in there a short while and I and several other fellows

25 were asked to take on another little project which was

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1 right close beside the 15 shaft, which we called the tiny
2 tot shaft, which we collared and made certain depth. And
3 then they prepared it and shot it. And I went back in, I
4 and my brother and we -- after the shot, to retrieve
5 various instrumentation. Now I asked my supervisor, now,
6 is this safe? Well, everybody else does it. Why can't

7 you?

8 And the only reason I was down there because I was
9 working to support my family, of course, and so naturally I
10 did. And I've been going to dermatologists through all
11 these years and I started working there in 1965 in August.
12 And I've had numerous small melanoma cancers cut off me and
13 I have pain in my chest and I've got some scar tissue in my
14 chest. But for my age I have reasonably good strength.

15 However, after that reentry work I was very weak
16 and I was just a man in my middle 40s, late 40s, and quite
17 incapacitated sexually. And I don't see where under these
18 efforts where it isn't worth some kind of compensation
19 because when I served in WW2 I at least got the purple
20 heart for getting some shrapnel shot through me.

21 And that's all I have to say. And thank you.

22 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you, sir.

23 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. With that I

24 don't think we've missed anybody, correct? Anybody that

25 we've missed? Okay. I've seen a hand or two up in here.

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1 What -- I think what we'd like to do is give them an extra

2 minute or two to make a statement or a comment. I know

3 this gentleman had his up first.

4 DR. MICHAELS: Are there others?

5 MR. CLAIRE: Is there anyone else wanting to say

6 something or make comment? Okay.

7 MR. TAYLOR: My name's John Taylor and I'd like to

8 expound on what Ms. Jensen stated about her father, Jack

9 Hyatt, who was a close friend of mine, a fellow mechanic in

10 the operating engineers, and his cancer. I don't know if

11 his wife ever researched it or had a diagnosis.

12 But him and I and Cooper Boyd, who was a welding

13 crew foreman in Area 6, were involved in an event where we

14 took over 2000 tons of depleted uranium pellets and put

15 them in a 900-ton ringer crane counterweight. They were

16 encased in cement. Now I've been told that this crane or

17 some of the cranes were sold offsite and with all the new

18 research coming out on depleted uranium, Cooper Boyd is

19 disabled in Alabama. He couldn't be here today. Most of
20 his crew is disabled. They welded on M-1 Abrams tanks,
21 Area 5, which are now buried and a Russian tank that was
22 exploded with depleted uranium, which they used these in
23 the shells over there, you're aware of that, in the Persian
24 Gulf war.

25 And depleted uranium, they told us it was

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1 harmless. They had these barrels of dust pellets, barrels
2 of pellets which when they poured them we had a lot of dust
3 up there and some of the laborers wore just paper masks.
4 And we did this for weeks at a time with this depleted
5 uranium.

6 In closing I mention to the doctor, I really have
7 a concern for DOE and the environment, the secretary of
8 health to look into the drill back operations,
9 especially -- without me disclosing my top secret
10 clearance -- in Area 5 of the groundwater situation to
11 ensure our children's health in the future in this area. I
12 think that should be of a high concern to really look into
13 that and investigate it.

14 Thank you.

15 DR. MICHAELS: Thank you.

16 MR. CLAIRE: Thank you very much. Well, with that

17 and no other hands up, I'm going to hand the mike back to

18 Dr. Michaels -- oh, comment?

19 MR. DUNN: My name is McKay Dunn and I had the NTS

20 medical surveillance project done and there's a couple of

21 ambiguous things here. Under breathing test it says,

22 scarring of the lungs may be caused by silica and

23 asbestosis; and chest x-rays, silica or asbestos, tobacco

24 smoking, or other problems may cause this scarring.

25 They're really ambiguous-type answers.

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You get back to your hearing and it says, your hearing is bad. Some of it's 'maybe', some of it's 'is'.

The 'is' they buy. The 'maybe' they aren't buying.

DR. MICHAELS: That's what we have to address.

You're actually right.

MR. CLAIRE: With that, I'm going to hand this to

Dr. Michaels.

DR. MICHAELS: I want to thank Phil Claire who's done a tremendous, tremendous job. And all of you for your patience. Let's hope this goes somewhere.

Kathy, thank you for hosting us and staying for the whole thing.

(Whereupon, the public meeting was concluded

at 2:30 p.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, ADELE DIETZEL, do hereby attest that

I took down in shorthand all of the proceedings had in the

before-entitled matter at the time and place indicated,

that, thereafter, said shorthand notes, in conjunction with

audiotapes, were transcribed into computer-aided

transcription, and that the foregoing transcript

constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of the

proceedings had to the best of my skill and ability.

Executed this 23rd day of March 2000, at

North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Adele Dietzel

Verbatim Reporter

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